

Senate Finance Committee
SB 182 – Establish Foster-to-College Scholarship Program
Proponent Testimony
Cathy, Independent Living Supervisor, Lorain County Children Services
June 25, 2024

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and esteemed members of the Senate Finance Committee. My name is Cathy. I am writing this letter regarding the HB164 and companion bill SB182 that would provide “last dollar” full-ride scholarships to any student who was in foster care or kinship after the age of 13. This would greatly benefit youth because it would allow youth to cover housing and living expenses so that students can focus on studying. Many students who have experienced foster care struggle with homelessness and food insecurity while attending school which causes them to lose their focus on their education.

This bill would also help young people to not be weighed down with excessive student loan debt in their future.

I appreciate your time and understanding. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Cathy Fairbanks, LSW, MSSA
Independent Living Supervisor
Lorain County Children Services