



June 2, 2020
House Bill 673 Written Testimony
State and Local Government Committee

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, I am pleased to take this opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill 673. As the Associate Dean of the College of Professional Sciences who will take over the Dean's role in the college next month, I am writing in support of House Bill 673. This bill represents an important step towards ensuring that universities like Xavier University can bring our students in the education field back to campus safely, educate them well, present them with a clear picture of their field's expectations, and see them graduate to become part of Ohio's workforce.

House Bill 673 helps create clarity and avoids penalizing students for forces well beyond their control. As you all know, our students were pulled off campus in the spring and completed their semesters remotely. For education students, that meant they could not complete their field experiences in the way they had anticipated. We appreciated the flexibility and support of the Department of Education to address those issues quickly. By codifying that flexibility around the number of hours or weeks of field experience needed to be eligible for a teaching license or endorsement, you are proactively helping to give us certainty now, as we continue to navigate an uncertain situation. While we will do everything we can to prepare for our coming academic year, we know that there are many unknowns about how the pandemic will progress this fall. I am pleased to express our support for this bill here to alleviate at least one concern.

Thank you to Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee for this opportunity to testify on this important piece of legislation.

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