

Testimony before the House Economic & Workforce  
Development Committee  
C. Todd Jones, President and General Counsel  
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio

February 18, 2015

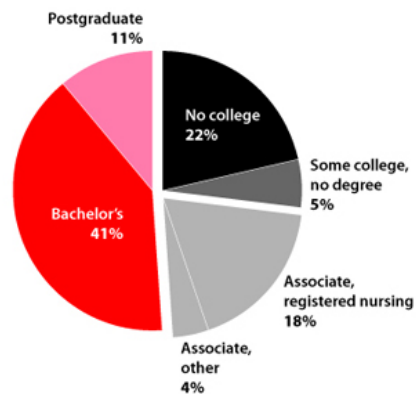
Thank you, Chair Baker and members of the House Economic & Workforce Development Committee, for allowing me to testify on behalf of Ohio's independent, nonprofit colleges and universities and their students. My name is C. Todd Jones and I am president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio.

AICUO represents 51 nonprofit institutions of higher education in our state. Our members educate 134,000 students, and award one third of the baccalaureate degrees in Ohio each year, and even higher shares of our state's degrees in mathematics, natural and biological sciences, and other key areas of study.

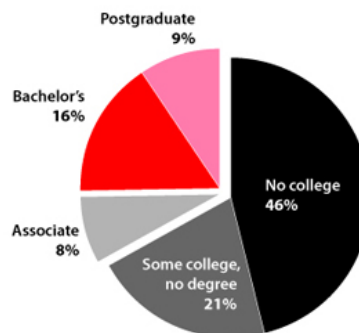
As you know by now, House Bill 1 creates a student loan tax credit for students who are pursuing the degrees or certifications that are required for the jobs that are determined to be the most in demand in this state.

In 2013 the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services released the Buckeye "Top 50" projected jobs. As you can see in the chart below, 74 percent of the high-wage, in-demand jobs projected through 2020 will require some level of post-secondary education.

**Postsecondary Education Required  
For Employment in Buckeye Top 50 Jobs  
2010-2020  
By Expected Annual Openings**



**Postsecondary Educational Attainment  
Ohio Population Age 25 and Above  
2013 Five-Year Estimate**

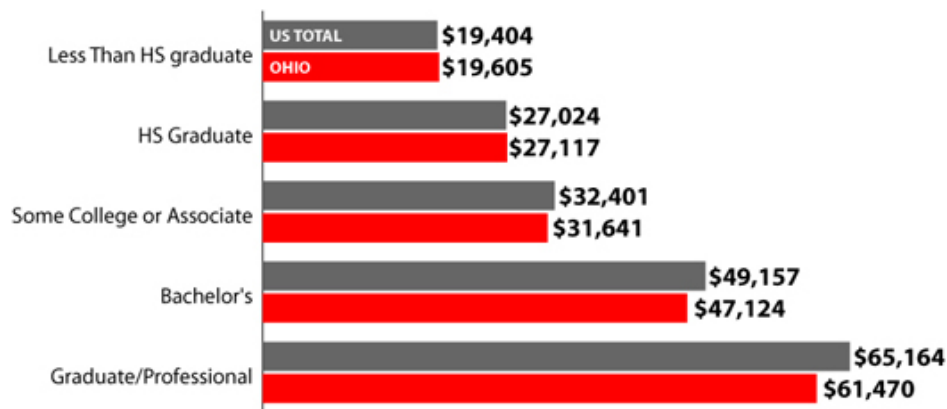


Sources: Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, Labor Market Information Section, "Buckeye Top Fifty"; U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-13 5-Year American Community Survey

You can also see on this graph that Ohioans are not educationally prepared to do these jobs. 46 percent of our population has no post-secondary education at all, and we are 39<sup>th</sup> in the country in bachelor's degree attainment. House Bill 1 provides an incentive to students to obtain the education needed to help them obtain a sustainable career, not just a job.

Incentivizing college degrees also has an immediate impact on earning power. In Ohio, a person with a bachelor's degree makes over \$20,000 more a year than someone with a high school diploma.

**Median Earnings in Past 12 Months  
Adults Age 25 Years and Over  
By Educational Attainment, US Total v. Ohio  
2012**



*Source: US Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey*

At the maximum award, the \$5,000 grant will have a large impact on Ohio's students financial standing. In Ohio, the average student graduates with \$19,781 in debt, \$5,000 is more than one-fourth of their total debt.

We are testifying as an interested party and not a proponent because the as-introduced version of House Bill 1 limited the tax credits to only public college and university students. However, we have worked closely with the sponsor, Representative Schuring, and spoken with you, Madam Chair, who both support expanding eligibility to include independent institutions.

If it is the will of the committee and that change is made, we will become a proponent of the legislation. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.