

TO:
HONORABLE SENATOR RANDY GARDNER
HONORABLE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE STEVE ARNDT
HONORABLE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE TIM BROWN

RE:
COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS (HB 474)

IN THE REVIEW OF HOUSE BILL 474 WE WISH TO ENCOURAGE THE LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER THE DETAILS OF THIS BILL THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONTINUING FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS PROGRAM. A COMPONENT OF THIS BILL, AS WRITTEN, WOULD PROHIBIT A SCHOOL DISTRICTS ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE PRICING WITH THEIR LOCAL UNIVERSITIES. SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS THE STATE OF OHIO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO NEGOTIATE LOWER PRICING OPTIONS FOR COURSES TAUGHT ON THEIR CAMPUS, BY THEIR INSTRUCTORS, AND UNIVERSITIES ARE EAGER TO AGREE AS THEY CLAIM NO OVERHEAD COSTS IN THE INSTRUCTION OF THESE COURSES. THIS IS A GREAT DEAL FOR OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS AND A GREAT DEAL FOR THE UNIVERSITIES, AS IT GIVES THEM THE ABILITY TO ATTRACT FUTURE STUDENTS.

I WOULD ENCOURAGE THE LEGISLATURE TO KEEP THE POWER OF NEGOTIATION BETWEEN OUR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND UNIVERSITIES AS THE COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS PROGRAM CONTINUES TO EVOLVE. AGAIN, I FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND UNIVERSITIES THE ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE BELOW THE FLOOR. I WOULD ALSO STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THE LEGISLATURE TO STRIKE THE LANGUAGE THAT REQUIRES THE CHANCELLOR TO APPROVE AGREEMENTS THAT FALL BELOW THE FLOOR. SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHOULD HAVE THE ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE THESE AGREEMENTS LOCALLY.

WE THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY. WE HOPE THAT YOU CONSIDER THE CONCERNS WE HAVE THAT WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON ALL OF OUR LOCAL TAXPAYERS.

RESPECTFULLY,

Karen Blake Karen Blake
Martina Terry City Schools
Treasurer

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Dirk Fitch, Dirk Fitch
Martins Ferry City Schools
Superintendent