

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
TESTIMONY OF JAY COURY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR  
CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MARCH 11, 2009

CHAIRMAN CELESTE, RANKING MEMBER GARDNER, MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE – THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY ON HB 1 TODAY. I AM JAY COURY AND I SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND I AM REPRESENTING THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES (OACC), ITS STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND BOARDS OF TRUSTEES .

ON BEHALF OF OUR TRUSTEES WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE H.B. 1 PROVISION IN LINES 92282-92288 WHICH STATES:

“NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THE CHANCELLOR OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS MAY, IN CONSULTATION WITH STATE-ASSISTED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, ADJUST THE INSTRUCTIONAL AND GENERAL FEE AMOUNTS CHARGED FOR AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM AT A STATE-ASSISTED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR, SUBJECT TO CONTROLLING BOARD APPROVAL.”

WHILE WE, IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES AGREE THAT OHIO’S COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO OUR SECTOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITH AN EXPECTATION OF CONSISTENTLY AND APPROPRIATELY LOW TUITION, WE BELIEVE THAT THE CURRENTLY

PROPOSED LANGUAGE DOES NOT REFLECT WELL THE PROCESS FOR ACHIEVING THAT GOAL. CURRENTLY, THE AUTHORITY TO SET TUITION RATES RESTS WITH THE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, WHICH HAVE A FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INSTITUTION. WE VIEW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TUITION AND FEES AS A VITAL PART OF OUR ROLE.

IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAS EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH THE OACC AND THE LEGISLATURE ON A RESOLUTION OF THIS MATTER AND I AM HEARTENED TO HEAR THAT AND HOPE THAT WE WILL COME TO AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION ON THIS ISSUE. IT IS OUR EXPECTATION THAT REVISIONS TO THE CURRENTLY PROPOSED LANGUAGE WILL BE MADE IN A TIMELY FASHION. IT IS OUR DESIRE TO REACH CONSENSUS ON THIS ISSUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY TODAY.