

SENATE BILL 216: PUBLIC SCHOOL DEREGULATION ACT

Whereas, The Ohio Faculty Council represents the faculty at all of the four-year public universities in the State of Ohio;

Whereas, Senate Bill 216 sponsored by Senator Huffman in the 132nd Ohio General Assembly proposes: 1) the broadening of the grade bands (from PreK-3, 4-9, and 7-12 to just K-8 and 7-12) for which elementary teachers are licensed, and 2) requiring College Credit Plus students to take classes at high schools rather than universities and a study of the efficacy of College Credit Plus;

Whereas, changing the licensing bands would require a significant re-working of the teacher education curriculum by Ohio's public institutions of higher education in what would be an expensive and time-consuming process;

Whereas, the existing teacher education curriculum is based on an extensive knowledge-base and pedagogical research that supports the proposition that the existing licensing bands should result in the most effective instruction for Ohio's students;

Whereas, high school teachers generally have not been trained to teach college courses and do not have the same educational backgrounds and research requirements that make college faculty experts in their fields;

Whereas, instructor credentials are a central factor in the accreditation of institutions that offer college credit courses and that many private and out-of-state institutions question the transferability of courses taught in a high school environment by high school teachers;

Whereas, it would be premature to prohibit a student from enrolling in a course at a college or online if a comparable course is offered on the campus of the student's secondary school unless the course at the secondary school is full until after the Ohio Department of Education has conducted the proposed study on the results and effectiveness of the College Credit Plus Program as it is currently implemented; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, The Ohio Faculty Council opposes the changing of licensing bands for elementary school educators until faculty at Ohio's public institutions of higher education have been able to carefully assess the curricular implications and feasibility of such a change; and let it further be

Resolved, The Ohio Faculty Council supports the conducting of a study into the effectiveness of the College Credit Plus Program but opposes requiring College Credit Plus students to take classes at high schools rather than universities at least until the current implementation of the College Credit Plus Program is evaluated.