House Education Committee
Testimony Re: House Bill 383

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Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Derickson, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the House Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify as an interested party regarding House Bill 383. OAINS members do not oppose some of the requirements of HB 383 as they pertain to higher education and the disclosure of certain data regarding affordability. However, OAINS continues to oppose the insistence of state government to add more mandates of what must be taught at Ohio’s private schools.

The parents and students at OAINS member schools choose our schools because they trust and believe in a course of study and curriculum that is created, updated and refined by administrators, faculty, parents and students. Parents make a decision to forego a free public education available for their children and instead devote resources to pay for an education they believe is more appropriate for their children. It is not adherence to government mandates that brings students to our schools. Furthermore, parents from other states or countries sending their children to one of six OAINS member schools with boarding school components do so not because of Ohio’s government mandates but because of the educational experience those schools provide.

Current law requires public and private schools to integrate financial literacy into the existing curriculum. While it is unfortunate that some school districts may not do enough, a one-size-fits-all graduation requirement that mandates a certain amount of time be spent on financial literacy is not appropriate for the ISACS-accredited private schools that are members of OAINS. We believe little consideration was given to whether or not this new requirement is appropriate to force upon all private, independent schools.

Over 99% of our graduates attend college after high school. The colleges our graduates attend, our professional educators, our parents and our students have clear expectations of what an OAINS member private school should provide in terms of an education. Please allow our schools to rely on those informed judgments when drafting a curriculum rather than the opinions of legislators.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your service to our state.