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HB 1161

House Education Committee

January 14, 2025

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Chair Heinert and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Valley City State University (VCSU). VCSU stands in opposition of House Bill No. 1161. We understand the legislative intent however this bill would decrease the efficiency of managing our operations.

When turnover and retirements happen causing vacant positions, VCSU evaluates each position to ensure the position meets the needs of the students before reopening. At times we hold positions depending on the timing of the academic calendar or hire a temporary staff replacement or faculty adjunct while strategically reviewing department needs. VCSU utilizes the salary savings from vacant positions to supplement these temporary salaries, therefore the quality of education and service of our students isn't impacted.

Transferring the pool of funds for these vacant positions to OMB and then setting up a process in which campuses request these allocations back would cause hiring delays, reduce funds needed for temporary salaries and hinder our ability to quickly respond to our students when education and workforce needs change rapidly.

In conclusion, VCSU asks for a Do Not Pass on HB1161 and allow institutions to continue fulfilling their missions to provide quality education, student success and fulfillment of workforce needs and allow the operational flexibility that is currently allowed.