

COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

My name is Charles Ansell, and I am the Vice President of Research, Policy and Advocacy at Complete College America, a national advocacy organization advocating for policy that supports the implementation of student success strategies so more students can reach their goal of attaining a college degree or valued workplace credential.

I am writing today in support of SB 564.

Comprehensive data reflecting student familial obligations during their studies helps policymakers and higher education leaders understand the extent of need for support services, such as on-site childcare. Such demographic information helps in the appropriation of resources to meet the most pressing student needs, thus increasing chances of college completion.

Such critical data will, in tandem with other research, support reforms in policy and practice that improve college graduation rates. It is obvious such data needs have only grown during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted the most economically vulnerable, and especially working mothers.

Put simply, knowing whether a student is a parent or guardian is invaluablely helpful data in helping colleges and universities help people graduate on-time in credentials of economic and educational value. For this reason, **Complete College America urges you to support SB 564.**

Thank you to Senator Gelser for championing this bill, and to Chair Dembrow for sponsoring it.

Thank you to the Committee for this opportunity to submit my testimony in support of SB 564.

Sincerely,

Charles Ansell