



**Testimony on House Bill 3012**  
House Education Committee  
February 25, 2021

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chairs Neron and Weber, and members of the Committee. My name is Kyle Thomas and I am the Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 3012.

HECC has never needed to serve as the venue for appeal by a student government of an institution's rejection or modification of a student fee, but it has come close to doing so. Twice in the last several months, the recognized student government at one university has initiated an appeal, only to withdraw the appeal after further negotiation with the university. This process of filing and withdrawal may indicate that the prospect of having the matter decided by the Commission is a motivating factor for students and institutions to come to an agreement, and that there is value in having an appeal process on the books even if it is formally unutilized.

Through these two filings, HECC has come to understand that a seven day window to receive documents and make a final disposition of the appeal is too short, and does not allow for scheduling (HECC Commissioners are volunteers, not paid staff) and a comprehensive analysis of the arguments presented by both parties and the relevant law. Increasing this window to 14 days serves all parties better, and will lead to more informed, less rushed determinations.

Thank you for your time today.