



Senate Finance Committee
Chairman Scott Oelslager
Senate Bill 247
May 24, 2016
Thomas Smith
Ohio Council of Churches

The Ohio Council of Churches consisting of 18 mainline Christian denominations is providing written testimony in support of Senate Bill 247 sponsored by Senators Brown and Lehner. We strongly believe that it is extremely important that lunch meals are provided to children during the summer months. It is our belief that schools should continue to make them available, however if they are unable to supply the staff, the least that they can do is make the facilities available to volunteers that may well include church, Legion, fraternal organizations, businesses or other public-interested groups. The food is made available by the Ohio Foodbanks Association.

While we understand the importance of a liability insurance policy and a liability waiver, however we feel that the school should not charge a fee for the use of the facility as many schools are providing the service to their children as a community responsibility. The least that they can do is make their facility available for the brief time that lunches are being served to children who otherwise would spend the summer without the nutrition that they had all school year.

We thank the committee for considering our thoughts on this very important service.