



*The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.*

## HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION – HB 540 PROPONENT TESTIMONY

(WRITTEN ONLY)

#### OEA PRESIDENT BECKY HIGGINS

APRIL 10, 2018

My name is Becky Higgins and I am the President of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). On behalf of the OEA's 125,000 members, thank you for this opportunity to submit Proponent testimony in support of HB 540 (R-Gavarone/R-Manning).

HB 540 would reform the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) based on the recommendations of the Ohio Educator Standards Board (ESB). The ESB's reform recommendations have been approved by the State Board of Education. Implementation of these important OTES reforms also requires the approval of the Ohio General Assembly.

The OEA strongly supports HB 540 and recommends approval of this legislation by the Ohio House Education Committee.

The HB 540 OTES reforms would do the following:

- Restructure teacher evaluations so they are teacher-driven and student-focused.
- Support teacher improvement with more specific, useful, and relevant feedback that is focused on student learning.
- Increase the value of classroom walk-throughs, formal observations and conferences by placing greater emphasis on identified areas for improvement.
- Link student growth measures with improving instruction, as opposed to a separate evaluation factor linked to a weighted percentage.
- Refocus the use of student growth measures (e.g. value-added) as tools for supporting teachers and helping students. The current stand-alone 50% student growth evaluation factor will be replaced with an evaluator's review of *how* a teacher uses high-quality student data throughout the OTES rubric to inform adjustments and improvements in classroom instruction, e.g. use of differentiated instructional practices based on the needs or abilities of individual students.

For the above reasons, passage of HB 540 will more effectively support teachers and student achievement. Thank you for your consideration and support for Ohio's great public schools.

OEA recommends passage of HB 540.

