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**Committees:**

Finance  
Economic Development,  
Commerce and Labor  
Civil Justice  
Aging and Long Term Care

# BRIGID KELLY

## State Representative

Chairperson Anielski, Vice Chairperson Hambley, Ranking Member Bischoff, and members of the House Committee on State and Local Government, thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning on House Bill 129.

This bill, The Governor's Externship for Training of Realistic Expectations of Academic Leadership in Schools (GET REALS), would require the Governor to complete a forty-hour externship of five eight-hour days during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years. The Governor would spend this work experience alongside classroom instruction, food service, and custodial staff in public schools rated A through F.

Upon completion of the externship, the Governor will submit a report regarding "How to Make All Ohio Schools A-Rated Institutions" to the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

As you are aware, the Governor has proposed in the executive budget adding a forty-hour externship for teachers to renew their licenses in the state of Ohio, as they must do every five years. According to the requirements from the Ohio Department of Education, teachers must already, develop and have approved an Individual Professional Development Plan, and complete six semester hours of coursework related to classroom teaching and/or the area of licensure; 18 continuing education units (CEUs) (180 contact hours); or other equivalent activities related to classroom teaching.<sup>1</sup>

The Governor's externship provision is ostensibly to help teachers better prepare their students for a changing workforce. The reality is that our teachers are adapting to changing environments, increased government mandates, and changing workforce demands every day. A teacher in my part of the state often speaks of teaching not only as classroom time, but as time serving the whole student – efforts to ensure that they have access to food and the nutrition they need, access to activities that help them develop both academically and socially, and class time that best prepares them for the opportunity to create better lives for themselves.

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<sup>1</sup> Ohio Department of Education, "How to Renew a Five-Year Professional or Associate License"  
<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Licensure/Renew-Certificate-License/How-to-Renew-a-Currently-Valid-Five-Year-Professio>

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Teachers spend much of their own time and own resources so that every day, they can work to give students the valuable skills they need to build stronger communities for all of us. Educators see every day – in and out of the classroom - the challenges and opportunities facing Ohio’s children. GET REALS will give the Governor the same opportunity. These work experience days will provide the Governor with greater insight for policy proposals and resource allocation, and the accompanying report will serve as a similar tool for the entire legislature.

By fulfilling the 40-hour externship required by this law, the Governor will better learn about changing demands in the classroom and the best practices to serve students across the state.

Again, I appreciate the chance to offer testimony on this bill with my co-sponsor, Representative Smith, and would be happy to answer any questions.

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