

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 1-19-2020

Name: James M. Bischoff

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: Superintendent, Ross Local Schools (Retired)

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 360

Specific Issue: Drinking fountains standard for school construction

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? Will not be present to testify.

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

See attached statement

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Jim Bischoff, Retired Ross Local Schools Superintendent
HB 360 – Bottle Filling Station Legislation
Proponent Written Testimony

Members of the House Commerce & Labor Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on the recently introduced legislation, HB 360, that would update Ohio schools' requirement to provide one drinking fountain per 100 occupants with a minimum of two in each building. Ohio currently has a drinking water access best practice guideline for schools that encourages them to "provide a positive dining environment that encourages a pleasant eating experience." A best practice to meet this benchmark is to ensure that "drinking fountains are available for students to get water at meals and throughout the day."

The proposed bill simply modernizes the current requirement and states that all newly constructed schools and schools undergoing major renovations have bottle filling stations. Specifically, there must be a minimum of two bottle filling stations in each building, one drinking fountain or water bottle filling station on each floor and wing of each building, and a minimum of one drinking fountain or water filling station for every seventy-five students projected to attend the building upon completion of the project.

Water plays numerous, critical roles to help the body function and may also positively impact cognition improving classroom focus and performance. Water consumption as a substitute for sugary beverages lowers calorie intake and obesity risk. Fewer than one-third of children and adolescents meet or exceed recommended water intake recommendations.

As a former superintendent, I believe this recommended legislation just makes sense. A healthy mind and a healthy body go hand in hand. Appropriate clean water access for students, staff and guests should be a basic *required* expectation in any public building.

Respectfully,

Jim Bischoff, Superintendent (Retired)
Ross Local School District