

Good Afternoon, Chairman Jones, and the members of the committee.

My name is Patrick Hogan, and I am the Vice President of the Northern Local Board of Education in Perry County. I am an active member of my community, serving in the American Legion, Scouting troop, and other service based organizations. My children have attended both Northern Local Schools and our local Catholic Elementary School, Holy Trinity.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this committee and express my support in making meaning voucher reforms, as presented in Senate Bill 89.

I'm passionate about education and Northern Local Schools. I am proud of the tireless service of our administrators, educators, and staff. But most of all I'm passionate about the students and community I serve.

I believe in accountability and transparency. I believe in local control and I believe funds appropriated for public education should be managed by local boards of education. Boards are best suited to provide oversight of these funds and are also held accountable by their communities for their effective use in education.

As I shared, my children have benefited from both public and private schools. I support private schools, but believe that taxes funding public education should remain in the public domain under the supervision of boards.

I'm heartened to see that the income-based vouchers are funded directly by the State instead of "pass-through" funding that diverts resources from students in public schools. I agree with the approach that if the State is seeking to provide vouchers to students, then the State should pay for them without taking resources away from our public schools. Transparency and accountability are maintained and demonstrates a wise approach to good governance and an adherence to the fundamental principles of local control.

Senate Bill 89 takes steps to fix a failed system of testing and school report cards. I agree that the State report cards and the over-reliance on standardized tests to measure student achievement need to be fixed. The proposed State Educational Assessments Study Committee provides Ohio with an opportunity to receive recommendations on improving in these areas.

Finally, I support standards and performance measures that move students towards success and empower educators in helping them forward. I know Ohio is capable of doing better, Senate Bill 89 takes us in that direction, and I believe it can only be done if we all work together and have a funding model that promotes collaboration.

Thank you for your time and thank you for your service to the Citizens of Ohio.

Very Respectfully,

Patrick Hogan