

Board of Education

811 S. Jefferson Street
Port Clinton, OH 43452
419.732.2102
419.734.4527 fax

February 18, 2020

Port Clinton High School

821 S. Jefferson Street
Port Clinton, OH 43452
419.734.2147
419.734.4276 fax

My name is Pat Adkins and I am the Superintendent of the Port Clinton City Schools in Port Clinton Ohio. Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony today. I am here today to encourage the committee to adopt the meaningful voucher reform as passed by the Ohio House. The House plan represents a fundamental shift in our voucher system, from a failing schools approach to an income-based approach.

Port Clinton Middle School

807 S. Jefferson Street
Port Clinton, OH 43452
419.734.4448
419.734.4440 fax

The failing schools system as currently defined is failing Ohio schools. We have been identified as failing by a system that uses data from a state report card which most will admit is flawed. According to this measure we are failing in spite of:

Bataan Memorial

Intermediate Elementary

525 W. Sixth Street
Port Clinton, OH 43452
419.734.3931
419.734.3705 fax

- Our elementary school received ODE's "Momentum Award."
- Our preschool has received the "5 Star Step Up to Quality" rating.
- Our middle school is recognized as a "State and National Forum School to Watch."
- Our middle school was recognized by the International Center of Leadership as a "Model School."
- Our middle school principal, Ms. Carrie Sanchez earned the Deborah Kasak Distinguished Leadership Award.
- A High school teacher being recognized as Ohio's Emerging Teacher
- A Middle school teacher being recognized at "Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Middle School Teacher of the Year, Northwest District.
- Our district was voted "Best Communities for Music Education"
- And our treasurer was recognized as OSBA's Treasurer of the Year.

Bataan Memorial

Primary Elementary

575 W. Sixth Street
Port Clinton, OH 43452
419.734.2815
419.960.7672 fax

Ladies and gentlemen we are not a failing district and our taxpayers should not be penalized by paying for the tuition of those choosing a private school education over a public school education. We have a parochial school in our community who we have a wonderful working relationship with and we have worked very hard with school leadership to not be in competition with one another but rather support one another.

We support school choice and welcome competition and do not consider ourselves failing and neither does our community. We support the current Ohio House version because it removes the controversial label of failing, which is not

accurately defined, and moves to a poverty system funded by the state. I am a proud graduate of St. Aloysius School in East Liverpool Ohio. I am a proud member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Port Clinton Ohio and a supporter of Immaculate Conception School in Port Clinton Ohio.

In closing, the provisions contained in Senate Bill 89 would end the practice of awarding private school tuition vouchers based on a flawed report card system and paid for by school districts. Instead, vouchers would be awarded to students solely based on family income, the priority being those students most in need. The costs for this income-based program, called the The Buckeye Opportunity Scholarship program would be covered by the state. It would remove the program's reliance on a flawed report card system that currently punishes districts, and local communities would no longer be required to subsidize private school tuition.

Respectfully,



Patrick D. Adkins, Superintendent
Port Clinton City Schools