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42<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee

Special Committee on Rules

Vice Chair- Committee on Insurance

Committee on Health

Committee on Public Utilities

Committee on Aging & Long Term  
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**Sponsor Testimony**  
**House Bill 22**  
**Primary and Secondary Education Committee**  
**February 19, 2019**

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Chairman Blessing, Vice-Chair Jones, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 22, which would require the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and the Department of Education to study the status of school buildings regarding air conditioning, accessibility, and school safety.

Our schoolchildren deserve an adequate learning environment. We need to prioritize creating good conditions to make our school buildings safe and accessible. I introduced similar legislation during the last General Assembly, when many schools in Ohio were forced to close for a day or more due to the lack of air conditioning. After learning this, I sent a letter to the Department of Education with a 30 day deadline to provide a cost estimate to air condition school buildings in Ohio that did not already have it. Both OFCC and ODE told me that the data I requested was not available. This data is a necessity in taking steps to make sure that our schoolchildren have a safe environment to learn in. This led me to introduce this bill, because we need to start taking steps to make schools proficient in regard to air conditioning, accessibility, and safety.

My bill would require OFCC and ODE to submit their findings to the General Assembly within six months of the effective date of this legislation. This information reported back will help us adequately assess the current status of our school buildings and is an important step in ensuring that our schoolchildren can learn in a safe and accessible environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 22. I would be happy to take any questions.