

Sponsor Testimony: **House Bill 333, Student Data Privacy Act**

State Representative Jon Cross, 83rd Ohio House District

November 12th, 2019

Representative Cross:

Chairman Jones, Vice-Chair Manchester, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, I am excited to introduce and provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 333 – the Student Data Privacy Act.

The central purpose of this bill is to protect our students' information. The proposed legislation gives school systems the ability to require software companies and cloud service companies that they contract with to adhere to rules that protect students' data.

This bill idea was brought to me from Findlay City Schools in my district because they felt that there was a need to address this issue.

Over the past few years, the amount of web-based software and services being made available for primary and secondary schools has exploded. Teachers and administrators are being bombarded at conferences, through email and print by vendors promoting their products as a vehicle to enhance student learning, improve test scores and more. As a result, teachers and administrators are clamoring to get access to this technology, often without understanding the darker implications of using these products.

This bill ensures that school systems retain control of their student's data; that the companies cannot use the student data for any other purpose other than what was contracted; that parents and guardians have the ability to review and correct any

personally identifiable information; that parents or guardians will be notified if there is a data breach; that the companies will not retain the student data after the contract is complete; that the companies cannot use any personally identifiable information in the student data to perform any targeted advertising.

There are already 22 state alliances working to develop a common contract language to use with software companies and cloud service providers and 7 states already use similar language in their student data protection legislation.

House Bill 333 is important to improve our educational system and protect our students. Keeping our records with the district and the school will keep Ohio safer and help protect the future leaders of our state.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to answer any questions.