

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Terhar, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the Senate Education Committee, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 110. This bill is critical in resolving the issues occurring in the Lorain City School District and greater Lorain Community. The current House Bill 70 structure, with three of the commission seats appointed by the state superintendent, has created significant distrust and controversy in the local community.

Most recently, the State Superintendent appointed the Commission Chair, a resident of Columbus. Another state superintendent appointment is from Toledo. Given the Lorain School District's declared state of emergency and the upcoming needed levy renewal (to be approved by the Lorain Board of Education), it is imperative the Lorain Academic Distress Commission has a majority influence from local entities.

Lorain City Schools has faced a major crisis under the current HB70 CEO, David Hardy Jr., and the three state superintendent appointments are directly responsible for the development of this crisis. The CEO has created extreme distrust among district employees, elevated school safety concerns, and a manifestation of intense community upset with financial expenditures and the allocation of public funds. Furthermore, the commission has failed to evaluate the CEO over the past 20 months and has failed to appropriately engage and work collectively with the elected board. The new Chair (appointed by the State Superintendent) has publicly announced he alone will evaluate the CEO without providing appropriate input from other commissioners.

In light of the declaration of emergency and the current state of urgency, **increased local control** outlined in SB110 is of vital importance to correct the situation in the Lorain City Schools. Increased local control will bring hope back to the community. Moreover, will provide the necessary support needed to move the district forward and out of academic distress. Thank you to Senator Manning for the work he has done on Senate Bill 110 to provide relief to Lorain Academic Distress Commissions and to the committee for allowing me to provide written testimony in support of this bill.

Regards,

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Newly appointed LADC member
Former Lorain Teacher and Principal
Parent of LCS graduates