

Good afternoon,

With the passing of HB 154 I was terrified for what was going to happen next to my community and our schools. We have just begun to see the positive changes our kids need to be successful. After years and years of not caring about the education of our young people, the complete mismanagement of money, shady business deals, and continued politics that drive fear and hate into the hearts of so many, we have someone from the outside who doesn't come with this baggage or view of our kids and our city. I have lived here for the better part of my life and those who are actually paying attention to the changes happening in our schools see how bad things were. The state review team was in the district a few weeks ago and I was able to be a part of the review. Each one of our scholars are in need of help as evidenced by the State's documented annual pattern of underperformance. This is why I applaud our current district leadership team that has chosen to create, and implement, a new approach to teaching and learning, which can, and will, reverse nearly a decade or irreparable loss to Lorain's educational system. Too many of our kids have been failing for years. When people wonder why we have violent streets, unfixed potholes, housing that is falling apart, and very few businesses in our city it is because of two things—years and years of bad politics that were adult centered and controlled our schools poorly and without care and we have not educated our children well enough to be prepared for the

world around them. They are not ready to get a job. They are being pushed through a system underprepared. When that happens, unfortunately leads to making bad choices that end poorly. While it is true that education starts at home, it is also factual that many of our young people come from homes of diversity and many other of factors which make the job of educating them very difficult for our teachers. Together, we collectively believe that it is not impossible to provide a nurturing learning environment and responsive instruction that meets the complex needs of our scholars. And we will continue to change the things we can change and ensure our teachers and their supporting staff are in the best position to affect the lives of our scholars in positive ways.

Although it may feel as if we've embarked on an uncomfortable and daunting task, we remain encouraged, inspired and continue to do what is in the best interest of scholars—the future of our community—as we collectively agree that there is nothing more uncomfortable than leaving high school without the tools needed to be successful. This is why we have chosen to work towards comprehensive change; believing that it is imperative we disrupt these patterns that leave many of our scholars unprepared for life after high school. By overturning the progress we are seeing—more kids are now leaving high school with an Associates Degree than ever before; the new Administration has restarted our early college program and we will see a rise in more of our young people taking college courses in high school, we now have Advance Placement course like other high performing high schools—for years we had zero, that's right zero AP

As a school district and community, we firmly believe that there is excellence in every one of our schools. And the work which we have done, and continues to lie ahead for all of us will ensure that that excellence shines through in every scholar, and every school, as we work together to bring our vision of an excellent school district, to reality.

Because we believe that our scholars who desire nothing more than to excel, and our committed teachers who desire nothing more than to fulfill those dreams, deserve those excellent schools. Thoughtful and exhaustive data analysis—which you will find throughout this document—has been, and will continue to be done, in order to make those thoughtful decisions which will ultimately make a lasting impact on scholars' futures, for many years to come.

We ask that you allow this intervention to continue. The idea of this work continuing with the local school board or mayor would end all progress we are seeing. For once, we see the care and love our kids deserve. For once we see a plan that can and will change the lives of our children. In the end, I believe it will improve our city. This only happens if you give this team time to work, time to show the progress, and to build on the foundation that they have built with the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.