



## Ohio Senate

27th District

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Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review

**Sponsor Testimony on Senate Bill 241  
Senate Education Committee  
December 8, 2015**

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Hite, and Ranking Member Sawyer, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony this afternoon on Senate Bill 241. This legislation seeks to accommodate for the elimination of the so-called “5 of 8 Rule” by calling for a comprehensive education system that provides student access to a well-rounded education.

SB 241 ensures that Ohio K-12 students would have access to a complete curriculum, including the fine arts, music, and physical education and comprehensive services through school nurses, school social workers, library media specialists, and counselors. In order to provide this education, this bill encourages Ohio school districts to employ education professionals that hold Ohio teaching licenses in these subject areas.

This legislation directs the Ohio Department of Education to recognize those districts hiring a minimum of five of these professional educators out of the seven categories per 1,000 students, simply encouraging, but not mandating, a minimum ratio similar to the ratio recently removed from Rule 5 of the Operating Standards after more than thirty years of precedent. It accomplishes this by requiring the Department of Education to include a reported measure on each districts’ report card stating the number of professionals employed in each position.

This legislation is the result of compromise with statewide stakeholders agreeing to a pragmatic approach in the hope that certain holistic education ideals and aspirations for Ohio could at least be stated, in law. This legislation is supported by the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education (OAAE), the Ohio Education Association (OEA), the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT), the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA), the Ohio Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (OAHPERD), the Ohio Educational Library & Media Association (OELMA), and the National Association of Social Workers - Ohio Chapter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.