



**David Leland**  
**State Representative**

SPONSOR TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE EDUCATION AND CAREER READINESS COMMITTEE  
SCHAFFER, LELAND  
HB 517: OHIO PRINCIPAL'S MONTH

Good Afternoon Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Slaby, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the House Education and Career Readiness Committee. Thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony today on HB 517, legislation that would designate the month of October as "Ohio Principals Month."

We are all aware of the transformative power of education. A good education can inform, inspire, and ultimately, provide students with a path to a better life. Our principals are essential to this process, as they play a crucial role in establishing a successful school culture.

If you're familiar with the work typically done by principals, this is no surprise. The majority of principals have a master's degree<sup>[1]</sup>, and have served as a teacher for an average of over 11 years prior to becoming a principal<sup>[2]</sup>. Principals assist with every step of the educational process, from recruiting top teachers, to crafting curriculum, to developing relationships with parents and the community.

In short, principals are well deserving of our recognition. The National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, and American Federation of School Administrators have been celebrating October as Principal's Month for quite some time, with celebrations in schools and communities throughout Ohio and across the nation. And, for several years, our US Congress has passed resolutions recognizing National Principal's Month in October. Many states have afforded the same recognition to principals in their state.

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<sup>[1]</sup> "Characteristics of Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Principals in the United States: Results From the 2011–12 Schools and Staffing Survey." Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, August 2013. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2013/2013313.pdf>

<sup>[2]</sup> "Average years of experience as an elementary or secondary school teacher prior to becoming a principal, by school type and sex: 2007–08." Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, 2007–08. Retrieved from: [http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sass/tables/sass0708\\_007\\_p12n.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sass/tables/sass0708_007_p12n.asp)

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I know many of the principals in my district personally. I have always been impressed by their dedication, relationship with students and teachers, their ability to stay calm under pressure, and of the positive impact that they have in our community.

It is for these reasons that I know it is time that we showed recognition to the many wonderful principals in our state, not just today, but every October. HB 517 would be a fitting way to do so, and I respectfully ask the Committee to vote favorably upon this bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.