

May 14, 2018

Chairman Andrew Brenner
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Vice Chair Marilyn Slaby
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Brenner and Vice Chair Slaby:

RE: Written Testimony in Support of H.B. 591

I would like to thank you for providing me with the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 591, sponsored by Representative Duffey.

My name is Keith Horner. I am in my 13th year as superintendent of the Wapakoneta City Schools and in my 28th year of education. During my career, I have truly seen the testing and accountability measures play out almost from the beginning to present day. I am in support of Representative Duffey's H.B. 591 for the following reasons:

- 1) Representative Duffey has done a considerable amount of legwork, including hearing from many stakeholders throughout the state of Ohio regarding the problems with the current Report Card and proposals for a new system.
- 2) This new program is less punitive and more informative, as school districts are able to understand the information and use the information to make similar district comparisons, subgroup comparisons, or reasonable comparisons between schools.

- 3) The representative's bill requires transparency on behalf of the Ohio Department of Education to ensure that the methods used to calculate measurements can be validated and replicated on behalf of districts.
- 4) The graduation rates measure will include more valuable information, such as employment data.
- 5) This bill also includes miscellaneous requirements, such as extra-curricular or additional activities and services offered by a school or district. These extra-curricular activities and services are often extremely valuable to the development of children in addition to our academic offerings.

I would like to introduce you to a book, if you have not heard of it, by Daniel Koretz from Harvard University. Dr. Koretz wrote a book entitled, "The Testing Charade." This book very eloquently outlines the problems that the current accountability system has had over the years. I believe that Representative's Duffey's proposed House Bill 591 is a step consistent with the recommendations outlined with Dr. Koretz's book.

Chairman Brenner and Vice Chair Slaby, I would like to thank you for this brief opportunity to provide you with written testimony regarding H.B. 591.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Horner", written in a cursive style.

Keith Horner, Superintendent

KH:pls