

Committees:

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Higher Education and Workforce Development
State and Local Government
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Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee
Ohio Third Frontier Commission Advisory Board
Joint Committee on College Affordability
Ohio Latino Affairs Commission

State Representative Rick Perales

Ohio's 73rd House District: Western Portion of Greene County

Education and Career Readiness Committee

House Bill 544 School Safety

Sponsor Testimony

May 15th, 2018

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Slaby, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Education and Career Readiness Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on HB 544 with my joint sponsor Representative Rogers.

As a former Air Force Civil Engineer and Executive Director of Facilities Management at the University of Dayton, I have with a unique perspective as to what this bill could accomplish. The architects and engineers I have consulted with believe that this is the right time to move forward with the implementation of this bill.

Violence in our schools has become much too common. These horrific crimes have instilled fear in our children, teachers, and staff. We are all aware of the effects school violence has had on our communities, and the concerned and passionate citizens that have taken a stand to say that it must end. There have been a number of proposals, many of which are partisan in nature and require complicated changes that would take time.

I agree with our concerned and passionate citizens. Violence in our schools must end. I hope you will consider taking a step in this direction by supporting

House Bill 544. This simple, straight forward bill requires incorporation of a minimum of two proven active shooter/life threatening deterrent construction features be incorporated into new Ohio school design/construction when it is more cost-effective and efficient.

I understand that this legislation is not comprehensive, nor will it solve all the issues that need to be addressed to ensure the safety of our youth. However, it is a common step in the right direction for the security for our children.

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Slaby, Ranking Member Fedor, and the rest of the Education and Career Readiness Committee, thank you for your time.