

House Bill 611 Sponsor Testimony
Representatives Keith Faber and Kristina Roegner
Education Committee

November 13, 2018

Representative Roegner and I introduced HB 611 to address the need for attendance, transparency, and accountability in online schools.

This bill requires online schools that receive money from Ohio, related to attendance, class size, or participation, to use an automatic verification software to verify the factors used to determine state funding.

The software must permit the Department of Education and State Auditor to have real-time access to data collected or provided by the software. It should automatically gather verification data such as screen shots, mouse activity, keyboard tracking, and secure storage. Appropriate student privacy and confidentiality remain a priority while providing feedback to ODE for accurate statistics. The storage of all data should be collected for seven years and made available to the state at no cost.

We have received interest in this legislation from the Auditor's office, online schools, and companies who can provide these services.

This legislation encourages school choice and brings transparency, accountability, and visibility into the online educational programs receiving state dollars.

Please join us in supporting this meaningful legislation to continue the accountability measures we have implemented on charter schools to ensure a better charter school system for our students while protecting school choice.