



Twinsburg City School District

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House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Mark H. Curtis

President, Twinsburg City Schools Board of Education

Good morning Chairman Blessing, Vice Chairman Reineke, Ranking Minority Member Clyde and members of the Committee. I am Mark Curtis, President of the Twinsburg City Schools Board of Education and on behalf of my board colleagues, I thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for H.B. 87 which would require funds taken from charter schools as a result of an audit or other circumstances, be returned to the districts from which they came. Current practice is that these funds are returned to the state's general fund.

I wish to thank Representative Kristina Roegner for her work in bringing attention to this issue and drafting legislation to address it in a manner that makes sense. Additionally, I want to thank the Ohio Department of Education and the State Auditor's Office for their collaboration in ensuring the language in the bill effectively meets the intent.

In 2016, \$237,264.90 was deducted from Twinsburg City Schools and paid to charter schools. As we now know, these dollars are directly derived from the revenue generated by local tax dollars. As Representative Roegner has previously stated, this bill continues in the spirit of ensuring that every single tax payer dollar is effectively deployed and, in the unfortunate event of a 'finding for recovery', is appropriately returned to the traditional school district".

As the charter school debate continues, the manner in which they are funded remains a concern not only with our district, but most traditional school districts throughout the state. Currently, our District only receives \$1,280.95 in foundation funding per student. However, approximately \$6,583.97 is deducted for each student attending a charter school. This disparity places our district in a position of having to raise additional tax dollars to make up for those lost to charter schools.

I applaud the general assembly in its collective efforts to improve accountability of charter schools. I would ask that you also work to remedy the current charter school funding model and suggest that consideration be given to deducting only what districts receive in foundation funding from the state as one alternative.

My colleagues and I seek to be partners in improving the delivery of quality education to our students and appreciate being given an opportunity to support H.B. 87. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

...where the schools and the communities are one.