



EDUCATION
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 11/2/17

Name: DR. JAMES L. LLOYD

Address: 27231 WORTHINGTON LANE
OLMSTED TOWNSHIP, OH 44138

Telephone: 440-759-1275

Organization Representing: OLMSTED FALLS CITY SCHOOLS

Testifying on Bill Number: SB 216

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: none

JAMES L. LLOYD, Ed. D
Superintendent

EMILY C. DALES
Treasurer/CFO

KELLI E. COGAN, M. Ed.
Assistant Superintendent

TIMOTHY J. ATKINSON
Director of Business Affairs

SHANNON M. GOSS, Ph. D., NCSP
Director of Student Services

JAMES J. TATMAN, M. Ed.
Director of Human Resources

Olmsted Falls City School District

26937 BAGLEY ROAD
P.O. BOX 38010
OLMSTED FALLS, OHIO 44138-0010

(440) 427-6000
FAX (440) 427-6010

www.ofcs.net



November 2, 2017

Dear Chairperson Lehner, Vice-Chair Huffman and members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee,

My name is Dr. Jim Lloyd and I am the superintendent for the Olmsted Falls City School District which serves students from the City of Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township. It is within Cuyahoga County. I apologize for not being able to be there in person to deliver my testimony in favor of Ohio Senate Bill 216.

There are several reasons why I believe that Ohio SB 216 should pass. While I have only been a school superintendent for 5 years, I have worked diligently to try and establish an open line of communications with the elected officials in my area and beyond. I was so pleased to hear that Senator Huffman and my superintendent colleagues from his region had collaborated on a piece of legislation. It provides me with hope that perhaps in the future, Ohio's School Superintendents can continue to partner with members of Ohio's General Assembly on other educational de-regulation matters.

Ohio Senate Bill 216 should be affirmed. First, on the basic tenet that public education has become so over regulated that it makes an already complicated process even more complicated and here is a bill that is seeking to actually de-regulate. On its face it has merit. More specifically related to the contents of the proposed bill, I believe that it should be affirmed for the following reasons:

1. Ohio Teacher Evaluation System

- a. A group of dedicated educators that are part of the Ohio Educator Standards Board have been working on improving the teacher evaluation process. It is my understanding that the provision in this bill that addresses Ohio's Teacher Evaluation System supports the work of that committee. Specifically, the Educator Standards Board wants to remove the Student Growth Measure (SGM) from the teacher evaluation process and I am in full support of this. SGM's are derived from standardized tests and attributing 50% of a teacher's evaluation to how students perform on a two hour exam at particular point in time puts an over-emphasis on the value and reliability of that data. It also sets up a system to teach to the test and shrink the curriculum to simple facts and not deep learning.

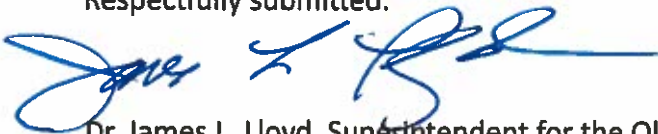
2. Student Management & Safety

- a. Of course school districts are for school safety and ensuring students come to school, however it seems we've begun to over-regulate and complicate this as well.. Based on some of the recent changes that were recommended and put into place, which may have seemed like a good idea at the time, I can tell you that the data tracking for this area has become unyielding and it needs significantly de-regulated. I am in favor of any attempt to provide needed data without overburdening our school operation at the local level.

3. State Testing/Student Assessment

- a. While I believe that there needs to be more significant work in de-regulating student assessment in Ohio, I believe that this bill represents a good first step in the process; specifically the elimination of some of the mandated diagnostic testing requirements. Furthermore, while having some of our youngest students take state assessments electronically may help the Ohio Department of Education, it is not what is best for young children. When you introduce this type of testing methodology to such a young group of kids you get confounding assessment variables and interference. When this occurs you significantly introduce measurement error into the situation which can impact the reliability and validity of the assessment. Essentially, you may be measuring a student's ability to use a computer as opposed to his or her ability to read and or process mathematically. This renders student assessment data unreliable. SB 216 will assist with this.

Respectfully submitted.



Dr. James L. Lloyd, Superintendent for the Olmsted Falls City School District