



*Forging a partnership between farmers and consumers.
•Working together for Ohio's farmers•*

November 8, 2017

Chair Peggy Lehner
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, First Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Lehner,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on S.B. 216, the Public School Deregulation bill. I would like to begin by explaining a little about Ohio Farm Bureau's policy development process. It is truly grassroots driven as the County Farm Bureaus vote on their local policy and submit policies for the state policy book, which is voted on by a delegate body comprised of county members from across the state at the Ohio Farm Bureau annual meeting. Those policies constitute the OFBF policy book and are what we use to take positions and advocate for our members. I will not be addressing the entirety of the bill as some provisions do not impact our members or agriculture education. We appreciate the opportunity to highlight provisions we support and communicate our concerns.

Ohio Farm Bureau supports local control for education. Local involvement in education helps to create strong communities and allows people to be directly engaged with the education their children receive. In addition, school districts best understand the needs of their individual students and how to evaluate their staff's abilities. By allowing local districts to evaluate their teachers, we are communicating that the state trusts its school administrators and educators to make the best decisions for student success. District superintendents having greater flexibility in teacher assignments specifically in regard to licensure is also a welcome demonstration of trust and will help many districts struggling to find enough qualified teachers to fill those positions.

Our members perceive teachers being restricted by state regulations. While we recognize many requirements placed on teachers by the state are in an effort to streamline education and give all children equal quality of instruction, this has often stifled a teacher's ability to be creative and innovative. We appreciate the bill's recognition that student growth is not a good indication of a teacher's abilities to effectively educate and should be removed from the evaluation process.

I also have the pleasure of representing the Ohio Association of Agricultural Educators (OAAE) who support SB 216 based on the aforementioned merits. As educators, they know firsthand the challenges involved with our current system. OAAE and OFBF support any reduction in testing as they feel students receive an overwhelming amount of testing, which again limits teachers to only cover what is on those tests.

One area of the bill we are concerned about is eliminating a college education requirement entirely for a substitute teacher license. While a college degree does not ensure a substitute teacher is fully prepared, it

is, at minimum, a guarantee to school districts that they can expect a certain level of quality from that individual. We respectfully ask the committee to examine this provision of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this bill and please contact me directly if you have any questions. We look forward to continued discussions throughout the committee process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenna J. Beadle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jenna Beadle
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