

Ohio House of Representatives



*State Representative
Kristina Daley Roegner*

**HB87 Sponsor Testimony
April 11th 2018**

Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Education Committee: Good Afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for HB87. This straightforward piece of legislation deals with public money returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an enrollment audit of a charter school.

House Bill 87 provides the Department of Education with specific guidance on distributing funds returned to the state from a community school as the result of a finding for recovery from the Auditor of State. If the finding for recovery resulted from an audit of the *enrollment records* of the charter school, the funds will be returned in their entirety to the school district from which the funding was originally deducted.

It should be noted that currently when ODE performs an FTE review of a community school, they are able to reconcile their findings and return the funds to the traditional school districts, however, the process of what to do

with the findings **from an audit** is not spelled out in code. HB87 will provide that needed clarity.

I would like to thank Mark Curtis, the President of the Twinsburg City School Board, who brought this issue to my attention at the end of the last General Assembly. I would also like to thank Sean Busken from Auditor Yost's office as well as Devin Babcock and Erin Rausch from the Ohio Department of Education for their input into the bill and for providing helpful background and perspective.

In the prior General Assembly, we led on charter school reform; HB2 was nationally recognized for its significant reforms driving accountability, and transparency for Ohio's community (charter) schools. HB87, which has a robust list of bi-partisan cosponsors, 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 school district from where the money came.

This legislation passed out of the House Government Accountability and Oversight unanimously, with a vote of 11 affirmative and 0 negative. It then passed on the House floor with a vote of 94 affirmative and 2 negative.

I would be happy to entertain any questions that the committee might have at this time.