



STATE SENATOR
CHARLETA B. TAVARES

15TH DISTRICT

Sponsor Testimony
Presented by: Senator Charleta B. Tavares
Senate Bill 262
Education Committee
Chair, Senator Peggy Lehner
Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Good morning, Chairwoman Lehner, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 262, which will require Ohio public schools to annually provide the parents of school children, from grades 5 through grade 12, with educational information regarding eating disorders.

This legislation will allow parents to be informed on the different symptoms of various eating disorders and their risk factors, all with the goal of equipping parents with information to address the disorder. This legislation will not create any additional standards for teachers, as the

intention of this legislation is to promote education on eating disorders among Ohio's parents and legal guardians.

Eating disorders are a very serious mental illness; however, they are treatable and the sooner a child is diagnosed and treated, the chances of that child having a positive recovery increases. Eating disorders hold the highest mortality rates of any mental illness and are the third most chronic illness among adolescents. In girls, who are between the ages of 15 and 24, eating disorder fatalities are twelve times higher than any other cause of death. According to the National Institute on Mental Health, at risk groups include individuals from adolescence to adulthood, which is why we need information on the signs and symptoms of eating disorders available for parents.

Chairwoman Lehner and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention to this important issue and I respectfully request your favorable consideration and passage of Senate Bill 262. Thank you and I am happy to respond to questions from the committee.