



## Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

*Helping people to live, learn and work in our community*

2879 Johnstown Road • Columbus, Ohio 43219 • 614-475-6440 • [www.fcbdd.org](http://www.fcbdd.org)

Jed W. Morison  
Superintendent/CEO

H.B. 572  
Proponent Testimony  
Senate Insurance Committee  
November 27, 2018

Chair Hottinger and Members of the Senate Insurance Committee:

My name is Jed Morison and I am Superintendent of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Our Board provides services to several thousand children and adults who have disabilities and our employees are members of either the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System or the State Teachers Retirement System.

In August, 2017, all County Boards of Developmental Disabilities in Ohio received notice that certain employees who are members of OPERS and who work throughout the school year would no longer be able to get a full year of retirement credit, even if they spread their pay throughout the summer. This primarily affects teacher assistants, cooks, clerical staff and bus assistants, who work in County Board schools and early childhood programs serving children who have multiple disabilities or significant medical complications. This recent change in interpretation changes the practice that has been in place for over 30 years.

A remedy for this problematic change is included in H.B. 572. Once approved, employees of County Boards of DD will again be granted credit for a full year as long as their pay is spread out over the 2 or 3-month summer recess.

We appreciate the support of OPERS with this language in the bill and the recognition that our school employees should be treated just as school staff are treated in all other school districts in Ohio under the State Teachers Retirement System or the School Employees Retirement System.

If this is not changed, a new teacher assistant in one of our schools would need to work 36 years to get the equivalent of 30 full years for retirement for a teacher assistant in a school district. That's 6 additional years!!!

In Franklin County alone, this change impacts over 130 staff members and the Ohio Association County Boards of Developmental Disabilities estimates that approximately 1300 board employees across the state are impacted. The language in the bill emerged from discussions with impacted parties, OPERS, and members of the Ohio General Assembly.

We very much appreciate your consideration of this section of the bill so that hard working people negatively impacted by this change are on equal footing with other 9 and 10-month employees like teachers.

Thank you for your time and attention today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.