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Civil Justice
Criminal Justice
Higher Education
Co-Chair, Criminal Sentencing
Subcommittee

Tavia Galonski
State Representative

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Jones, Ranking Member Robinson, and my colleagues on the Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony for House Bill 165.

House Bill 165 aims to establish health education standards for students in grades K-12. This bill would bring Ohio up to code with the rest of the country seeing as Ohio is the only state without health education standards. This legislation came on to my radar after a meeting with middle and high school health advocates. One of the gentlemen in the meeting was a 7th and 8th grade track coach. He made a comment that he has had to do laundry and buy deodorant for some of his runners because they come from underprivileged homes and have not been taught the importance of basic hygiene at home or school. These are basic life skills that students need to learn at an early age to ensure that they will be healthy and productive citizens as they continue to grow. We cannot control if they will be taught at home, but the least we can do is ensure that they are being taught in school.

In order to determine what the health standards should be, this bill instructs for the national health standards developed by the American Association for Health Education to be adopted. Generally speaking, there will be eight goals to serve as bench marks for the standards:

Standard 1 Students will comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.

Standard 2 Students will analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other factors on health behaviors.

Standard 3 Students will demonstrate the ability to access valid information, products, and services to enhance health.

Standard 4 Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.

Standard 5 Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.

Standard 6 Students will demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health.

Standard 7 Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks.

35th House District

Summit County

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Standard 8 Students will demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family, and community health.

Each of these standards are broken down into age appropriate information based on grade level. If the Governor signs this legislation, the State Board of Education would have to adopt said standards no later than July 1, 2020.

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Jones, Ranking Member Robinson, and my colleagues on the Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for your attention in regards to House Bill 165. I am happy to answer any questions from the committee.