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Tavia Galonski State Representative

Chairman Jones, Vice Chairwoman Manchester, Ranking Member Robinson, and my colleagues on the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to give testimony on House Resolution 266.

House Resolution 266 urges the Ohio Department of Education to institute a mandatory four-year life skills program. As outlined in the resolution, basic life skills include cooking, cleaning, budgeting, home repair, parenting, balancing a check book, and filing taxes. Although this is not necessarily an exhaustive list, it provides a general foundation of the skills students would be learning.

Learning basic life skills is absolutely necessary for students to become successful young adults. Far too often students unfortunately do not have an adult figure to teach them things that are often passed down. Having school systems work with students to ensure that they have basic, valuable skills helps make them successful regardless if they choose to further their education.

Everyone needs to be able to tackle these every day scenarios that we face and that ultimately impact our health. For example, teaching students how to make healthy meals for themselves gives them the knowledge to fuel themselves as best as possible. Just having a better diet lowers the risk of obesity, improves energy, and improves overall health. Basic repair skills promotes a healthy environment along with being cost saving in the long run. All in all these are commonsense lessons that all students should be equipped with.

Chairman Jones, Vice Chairwoman Manchester, Ranking Member Robinson, and my colleagues on the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to give testimony on House Resolution 266. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.