



Representative Joe Miller  
56<sup>th</sup> House District  
House Bill 626 Sponsor Testimony  
December 2, 2020

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Chair Jones, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 626 with my joint sponsor, Representative Sobecki.

So as not to belabor the many points my co-sponsor identified that this bill would address to efficiently and effectively transport public and nonpublic school children in our 610 districts across the state, I would like to share the perspectives of a director of Transportation and a superintendent in my home district. And I quote...

“As I see this it would help with the scheduling, as now, the private or charter schools can pressure you to have the students at school before their start time, and sometimes that can be very difficult. They want you to up the route times for your own schools to accommodate their schedule. This would allow some flexibility and make them accept our bus schedule, even if they are late...The flip side is it could increase the requests for transportation??? The other big plus here is it requires the other school to provide schedule, student rosters, as that is often tough to get the complete lists of our students that attend their schools.” - Milt Saylor, Firelands Director of Transportation.

Dr. David Hall, Superintendent of Oberlin City Schools noted. “When it comes to organizing Oberlin City Schools District transportation, a lot of factors are involved, including, but not limited to: staffing, maintaining vehicles, student locations, special accommodations for students, reducing length of travel time and cost. Please understand, hundreds of school systems manage this task daily. The concern comes in when districts begin prioritizing transportation needs of students attending school outside of the “home” district, such as private or charter schools. Students who attend school outside of their “home” district ultimately cause route adjustments, which can and have led to increasing students’ time on a bus for three to five students traveling within the general area. Within Oberlin City Schools, we have had more than 50 students late for school and activities for five students who are not within their “home” district. Stating this fact, school systems should have the opportunity to organize routes for the majority of students first when faced with transportation challenges. “

These are just a couple of the comments received regarding the challenges faced in transporting students under the current system. I appreciate the opportunity to testify and we would be glad to entertain questions at this time.