To: Education Committee

From: Joshua M. Garcia / It Takes A Village To Tackle HB70

Testifying on Bill Number: HB 154, HB166, Return of local control

Thank you for the opportunity to testify about securing Local Control. My name is Joshua Garcia and I

live in Lorain, Ohio. I work at the Boys & Girls Club as a staff mentor for the Lorain City Schools.

I am here today to share briefly my concerns with the effects of HB70 has on our school system.

Working at Toni Morrison Elementary School has been an eye opening experience for me. The

conversations I’ve had with parents, and teachers is very concerning. The way the report cards are

structured, and the lack of knowledge of the grading system. Has deeply effected our teachers from

being able to give a true picture of their child’s grades.

The confusion in the city of Lorain is at a all time high. The CEO’s Lack of transparency with the public,

and mixed messages through media outlets. Has caused a toxic image of our school system. This will

have negative lasting effects, and years to heal after we repeal HB70.

Our teachers have been attacked by HB70, and has caused high stress for them. The CEO has no respect

for the educators of Lorain City Schools. The hiring of unqualified teachers, and letting go of our

qualified teachers. Is an attack on our education system, and will destroy Lorain City Schools. Let’s

make no excuse to why HB70 was created, and the effects it will have across Ohio’s educational system.

Let me ask you! Have you ever spent a day, week, month, or even a year in Lorain

City Schools? I would assume most of you haven’t. But yet, you sit here in Columbus attacking my Lorain

Proud Citizens. You don’t know our culture, diversity, or needs as a community. This HB70 was designed

to attack poor school districts, teachers, students, and especially minority students. I’m here today to

defend my family, friends, and community.

My great grandmother immigrated from Mexico to Lorain, OH in the 1920’s, and Lorain City

Schools has educated my whole family. Her sacrifice to come to America, has given me this opportunity

to speak here today. Letting this committee know, and the rest of our elected officials. That if this HB70

isn’t repealed, and full local control is given back to all schools effected. Our Unions, Citizens,

Organizations, and Students. Will make sure your next campaign is a loss, and it’s about time we hold

elected officials accountable. Thank You for letting me speak here today, and I will leave you with one

quote from Nelson Mandela & Myself.

“ Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

* Nelson Mandela

“ HB 70 is a weapon to destroy our public educational system, and will leave a negative impact on Lorain City Schools.” – Joshua M. Garcia