Why we can’t keep going backwards.

The ideal setup that the current House Bill’s are speaking to, Lorain already had-we had a superintendent, local appointed school board, and an academic distress commission with local community members. I’ve sat at board meetings where data was presented, you had a few questions that were asked here and there but not enough to where a decision was made to make changes. No plan developed. I’ve never known the superintendent during this time be evaluated (if it happened, nothing was released that I read about). Year after year we moved forward, changed superintendents, changed curriculum, changed administrators and teachers but the one thing that remained constant was the school board, yet with the local control no concrete foundation was established to show and guide us to where Lorain City Schools needed to go, and it was observed the ones who tried to have say, were shut down. When time occurred where we finally recognized that the state was coming in, the school board and Mayor were allowed to have their picks for the new ADC, a person was chosen and then within a few short months was replaced, why? I do not know and that’s why I stand here today, I’ve seen the politics that have been played in our district and time cannot continue to be wasted going back and forth. We need consistency, if the plan from the decision makers whom I stand before today is to give local control back to the district, there has to be a system in place that all interested and invested parties will have an opportunity to have a seat at the table and I truly believe our mayor and school board will not allow that opportunity to happen and we fall back into the same status quo we’ve been in for years. Change is needed in Lorain, absolutely agree with that, but the right people need to be in place to foresee it happen, a plan is needed to incorporate a board where all parties have knowledge of academics regarding instruction and curriculum, the school culture, parent engagement, the evaluation process at the district and school level, and community resources (community wrap around services to serve the needs of our students in the district).

Thank you for allowing me to speak before you today.

Submitted by Tamara Jones