

May 27, 2019

To: State of Ohio

Senate Finance Committee

Fr: Mrs. Mary Miller

2318 E 34th St

Lorain, Ohio 44055

I humbly come to you today as a proponent to HB154 and HB166. As living the nightmare known as Academic Distress Commissions, I have first hand experience and knowledge that the model set forth by HB70 does not work. Bypassing local opinions and providing a pathway to privatization only favors the for-profit management companies and does not help struggling students. Educators and community leaders, not lobbyists for business or profiteers, can help to solve the issues surrounding our most vulnerable children, including those with special needs. Time to put communities and children first and end the financing formula that takes away from public education and fully fund public schools so they can put forth the resources to help students. I would be remissed not to remind this legislative body of the terrible debacle known as ECOT, the many other failed charter models, as well as the (inter)national striking teachers, especially the first charter network strikes. The profitizing and privatization of public ed does not work as proven in cities nationally and even in foreign countries. Let's learn from our mistakes. My children and their peers are too important to compromise.

You have heard from a few from our Lorain District who have falsely claimed the model is successful, and that is far from the truth. Our community is suffering. We would be devastated to see another district go through what trauma we have sustained. Thank you so much for allowing me to give my perspective as a parent and volunteer.