



**Ohio Senate**  
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Committees  
Government Oversight & Reform, *Vice Chairman*  
Finance—Primary/Secondary Education Subcommittee  
Education  
Judiciary  
Energy & Public Utilities  
Rules and reference

**Matt Huffman**  
Majority Floor Leader  
12<sup>th</sup> District

**To:** Members of the Senate Education Committee  
**From:** Senator Matt Huffman  
**Date:** June 9, 2020  
**Re:** Sponsor Testimony: School Reopening

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Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 320, which allows individual school districts to decide whether they will open in the fall for the 2020-2021 school year, and on what terms. The bill would also prohibit other public officials from closing schools in that school year. SB 320 would empower Ohio's public and private schools to make their own decisions when developing plans for welcoming students back to school this fall.

This legislation, which includes public school districts, community schools, chartered nonpublic schools, STEM schools, and homeschools, will allow each community to make a decision that is best for its set of unique circumstances. With more than 3,500 schools across Ohio, a one size fits all plan would fail to be fair and effective. If the district or school opens its school buildings for instruction, the board of education or governing authority will be able to determine what safety measures and guidelines to implement in order to address public health and the COVID-19 virus. The goal of this legislation is to allow each school or district to make the decision that is best for their students, teachers, and families.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have at this time.