



**Ohio Senate**  
State Senator  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 466-7584

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:** December 8, 2020  
**Re:** Sponsor Testimony: Substitute Teachers for 2020-2021 School Year

---

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 388, which provides discretion to school districts regarding the educational requirements of substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year.

This legislation will allow local school boards to have flexibility in obtaining substitute teachers next school year as a response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Due to absences and illness as a result of the coronavirus, many schools are struggling to have enough teachers and staff available to properly teach and monitor kids in school. Many smaller districts are still operating in-person classes, but struggle to cover absences when a teacher must quarantine, causing other teachers, administrators, and counselors to give up important prep time in order to help supervise students.

Thankfully, technology has helped our schools to continue educating students through online activities and video conferencing to deliver lessons. However, schools operating in-person still need substitutes to monitor children for safety reasons and ensure that homework and other classroom activities continue uninterrupted. In order to allow schools to more easily maintain coverage of classrooms, SB 388 would let the local school boards use their own set of educational requirements for substitute teachers to ensure that quality educators and supervisors are available to cover classrooms and keep children in schools. The goal of this legislation is to make it easier on school districts to maintain proper staffing during the uncertain times that we are experiencing due to the COVID-19 virus.

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