



May 12, 2020

RE: SB248

Dear Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee:

We are writing today in support of Senate Bill 248 regarding the extension of the moratorium for the requirement that school districts install storm shelters for new building construction, alteration, repair or maintenance. We are concerned with every student's physical safety and value any measure that helps to protect our students. Unfortunately when planning school facilities, districts are already making difficult decisions on what to include in a building with a budget that is never quite enough for the needs of the district. In our current environment, school administrators are evaluating how to manage threats to student safety such as active shooters, bullying, health outbreaks, etc., which are more likely to impact student safety than the occurrence of a tornado.

That task is even more difficult today as Ohio school districts are already working to manage the challenge of a state funding cut. This unfunded mandate would add to this burden and may force districts to give up other building components that could have a more immediate impact on a student's education and safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration in support of Senate Bill 248.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gordon

Director of Business Management and Facilities