

**Committees:**

Vice-Chair, Primary & Secondary Education  
Agriculture & Conservation  
Health  
Higher Education & Career Readiness



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**Representative Adam C. Bird**  
**Ohio House District 66**

**Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 583**  
**Before the House Finance Committee**  
**March 30, 2022**

Chair Oelslager, Vice-Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Sweeney, and Members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 583, which will ensure that all Ohio schools have sufficient personnel to teach students during the upcoming 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.

I will keep these remarks brief, as the most substantial policy work on this bill has already been completed by the House Primary & Secondary Education Committee. To summarize, House Bill 583 does three very simple things:

- Gives local school boards the flexibility to recruit additional substitute teachers who don't have a bachelor's degree, so long as they:
  - Meet the district or the school's own educational requirements
  - Are of good moral character
  - And pass a criminal background check

These individuals are then issued a temporary, non-renewable substitute teaching license for one year. This is simply an extension of the same language which has been approved twice in the past two years in response to the pandemic – no more, no less. This is also a temporary measure, which will sunset on June 30, 2024.

- Creates a study committee to address the causes of the shortage of substitute teachers and examine ways to alleviate that shortage with more permanent solutions. The committee will be required to produce a report by October 30 of this year.
- Finally, this bill appropriates \$338 million from the Federal Fund Group to Federal School Lunch, which is the reason we appear before you today.

We have gathered input on the language of this bill from a wide variety of stakeholders and interested parties. Through our work in the Primary & Secondary Education Committee, we have worked out this compromise which will provide critical support to our schools and allow students to attend classes for the entirety of the upcoming school year without disruption.

Representative Jones and I will be happy to answer your questions.