

March 7, 2021

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 34.

I am Karen Mayfield, a member of the Washington Local School District's Board of Education and a 20-year employee of Ottawa Hills Local Schools – both in Toledo, Ohio.

Plain and simple, House Bill 34 is a fair and reasonable requirement for public and private schools to transmit a transferred student's records within five school days.

As a public school district employee, I have experienced the frustration and feelings of helplessness caused by the delay of receiving students' academic records. Our elementary school had a parochial school withhold two students' records because their parents owed tuition. We received the records, days later, only after the parents paid their outstanding tuition in cash. This was not fair to the students or to the teachers who were responsible for accommodating those children's needs.

I understand that withholding records seems like the only leverage schools have to require parents to pay outstanding fees or tuition, but children are the ones who suffer most from something for which they are not responsible. This is wrong.

Please support children, teachers, and the integrity of the educational process by approving House Bill 34.

Respectfully,

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