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State Representative Tom Brinkman, Jr.

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Chairwoman Manning, Vice Chairman Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee, good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on House Bill 117.

Three years ago, I was approached by my constituents to provide a mechanism in which they would be able to move their community from one school district, which did not meet their needs, to another school district which would better suit their situation.

The first case of this was a new community built in 2007 that was located in a part of a township which had nine separate parts. Since other parts of the township were in different school districts which did not meet their needs, they wanted to move to a different school district which would accomplish this. Since 2007, *not one child* in that area had attended their designated Public School. New potential buyers of the homes in that area assumed based on nearby neighborhoods that they were in a different school district and when finding out they were not, chose not to buy there or when they did buy there they sent their children to private schools. They wanted the option to change school districts to one that better suited their children just like other parts of the township had.

The second case was a neighborhood located in a city which had its own school district. Twenty years ago a family moved onto their single street neighborhood and asked the neighbors to petition to change that single street over to a neighboring school district so that family could continue going to the same schools they were used to attending. Being neighborly, they agreed. Those children have all graduated and that family has moved on. This neighborhood wishes to transfer back to their original school district and approached me to help discuss a way for this to occur.

HB 117 puts the mechanism in place to allow these small area transfers.

Two years ago when this was in place, only *four areas* in the entire state petitioned to move schools districts. This evidences that only very few areas will use this law to change schools districts. It will not be a flood of change, but yet give folks freedom to do what's best for their children.

Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss this legislation and I am happy to take any questions.