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Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill (HB) 200. My name is Missy Huck, and I am the proud parent of three students enrolled in Fort Frye Local Schools, and I am also an owner of several small businesses in southeastern Ohio.

As a parent and business owner in the community, I am very informed of the programming and events in our local school system. I am a proud graduate of our local high school, and I am pleased with the opportunities my children are being provided at Fort Frye. Like me, most parents do not rely on Ohio's school report card to tell us the story of what is going on in our school system. We have two-way communication with our schools. Staff members make themselves available to us. The school report card is just a small piece of what we consider.

I am more concerned about the variety of programs the school can offer my children, the relationships they have with peers and staff, and their safety while in school. There are so many student opportunities both during the school day and after-school that could never be captured by a school report card. These things are not measurable by bureaucracy.

If I do not place that much emphasis on the state school report card, then why am I advocating for the changes in HB 200? The current report card system is unfair to schools, and it is designed to be punitive. I want an accountability reporting system that is set up so that schools can demonstrate their successes, not with impossible calculations that exist on the current report card. I watch people misuse the letter grade ratings on the current report card for their own personal gains, which does nothing to promote school improvement or a cohesive community. I question how a "grade" can be given by someone who has never set foot into the school? I also question how a one size fits all approach works when grading Ohio schools. Each community is different and filled with students with different strengths and weaknesses.

Further, I hear people claim that businesses are demanding higher standards for schools and that if we change the state school report card, we are taking steps backward in accountability. This is so ridiculous. These standardized measures on the report cards are so complex that is very difficult to equate it with success in the job market.

HB 200 is a step in the right direction of recognizing that the over 600 school systems in Ohio are vastly different. I hope Ohio's children and schools can count on you to pass HB 200.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Missy Huck

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