



**Columbus Board of Education**  
**Jennifer A. Adair - President**

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*Mission: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.*

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House Primary and Secondary Committee  
House Bill 334 Proponent Testimony  
October 26, 2021

Thank you Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary and Secondary Committee for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 334. My name is Jennifer Adair, and I am the President of the Columbus Board of Education, representing Ohio's largest school district.

To lead a learning organization, its leaders must become educated themselves.

Ohio's School Board Members require a unique set of skills and abilities to govern. Each member brings an important background and perspective to their part-time and stipend service, but not always all of the skills necessary to run a government body. To ensure that every board member is fully prepared to govern responsibly, ongoing education is vital.

Boards of Education are charged with leading, governing, and making critical decisions to carry out the mission of public education as a government body. Decisions such as setting policy, establishing goals, hiring and evaluating direct reports, monitoring student achievement, and governing budgetary matters. To run a government means it is essential for its leaders to gain knowledge on these important topics.

As Boards of Education, sometimes it is necessary for its education to be specialized to meet the needs of it's district. Access to high quality or customized professional development and education is available, at a cost, through universities, schools board associations, and other professional entities.

The investment in this type of education produces positive outcomes for the organization and the children of the district.

One important aspect of government service is to ensure transparency, accountability, and access to the public. This means ensuring all Boards of Education understand Ohio's Ethics Requirements and Open Meeting Laws. Requiring this training annually, not only enhances compliance, but public trust and accountability. Meeting this requirement is unburdensome, as both the Ohio Attorney General's Office and Ohio Ethics Commission make training available in virtual or recorded formats.

Continuous growth and development through education pushes Boards of Education to be conscious and proactive, rather than complaisant and reactive. When leaders have a growth-mindset and

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actively learn, it promotes strong educational outcomes for its students and staff and sets a standard for behavior modeled for the entire organization.

Boards of Education must have opportunity and means to become educated. I urge you to support this legislation. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Ohio House Bill 334.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Adair", is written over a faint, light-colored circular stamp.

Jennifer Adair  
Board of Education  
President

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