



Toledo Public Schools
Board of Education
Educational Campus
1609 N. Summit Street • Toledo, Ohio 43604

Christine Varwig
Board President
419-671-0550
Fax 419-671-0082
cvarwig@tps.org

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and the Members of the Primary & Secondary Education Committee:

Good Afternoon, my name is Christine Varwig, I am the Board President of the Toledo Public Schools Board of Education. I am submitting testimony in support of HB 334 sponsored by Representative Sobecki and Representative Ingram.

I knew the monetary compensation I would receive as a school board member once elected was minimal, that was never a consideration for seeking the office I hold. Being a school board member is a labor of love. With that said, the financial costs associated with the school board office continue to rise. Whether it's time away from work for board committee or regular board meetings, meeting with community members or district staff, the countless hours spent in research on laws created at the state and federal level continue to add up. I would hate to think that the opportunity to become a school board member would be limited due to the compensation currently available; I consider myself privileged to continue to work on behalf of the public but I am in a financial position to do so, others may not be. An increase in compensation would help offset the costs incurred by doing my job as a public servant on the school board.

While I am not an advocate for mandatory trainings especially for an elected office that consumes a great deal of my time already, I do believe professional development is important. I, along with thousands of fellow school board colleagues across the state, attend trainings via the Ohio School Boards Association beginning with a School Board 101 training session. If training becomes mandatory, I would suggest utilizing the Ohio School Boards Association as the vehicle for such training as they have the structure and process in place.

Thank you for your time.