

10/25/2021

Chair: Gayle Manning
Primary & Secondary Education Committee

Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony as a proponent of H.B. No. 334. My name is Irshad Bannister. I am a school board member for Washington Local Schools in Toledo, Ohio. These have been challenging times for our country, state, and local communities. Covid 19 has had a devastating effect on our school systems over the last three school years. Board members across the state of Ohio are dealing with threats of violence and bodily harm to themselves and their families. They consistently have to deal with verbal assaults in person as well as on social media. They are required to deal with ever changing guidance from state and local health departments all while being directly blamed for the implementation of that guidance.

All of these issues are on top of the duties that school board members actually signed up for, as we all campaigned for the privilege to be elected to these positions. I personally serve on three committees with all of them holding meetings monthly. There is prep work for all of those meetings to make sure we are prepared. This does not include our actual board meetings, which is the only meetings we actually receive compensation for. Every elected position, including your own, should already receive a cost of living adjustment or be evaluated for an adjustment. School board should be no different. I'm certain that no school board member decided to serve in their community as a board member for the money, but the possibility for a board to increase their pay would better compensate them for the time and energy they are investing in their work as a board member. I appreciate your time and consideration in voting yes for H.B. No. 334. Thank you.

Irshad Bannister
Washington Local School Board Member