



**House Primary and Secondary Education Committee  
HB 606 Proponent Written testimony  
By Melissa Cropper, Ohio Federation of Teachers  
May 10, 2022**

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and Committee members, I am Melissa Cropper, a library media specialist from Georgetown Exempted Village schools and president of the Ohio Federation of Teachers. OFT represents teachers and paraprofessionals in rural and urban school districts, higher education faculty, and public employees. I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony supporting HB 606.

OFT is concerned about the health and safety of all students. Therefore, we support the effort to ensure that staff members are aware of signs that would occur if a child has a seizure. HB 606 is a combined effort of Representatives Bird's and Ingram's earlier legislation on this topic. We appreciate them convening stakeholders to discuss their earlier bills. At that time, we expressed concerns about already limited professional development and training time, and the training costs associated for school districts.

HB 606 calls for one hour of training in-person or online which provides flexibility for school staff. We appreciate it allows for a year after the enactment of the bill for all staff to be trained. HB 606 says it will be the responsibility of those designated and trained to dispense medication to do so. We feel that school nurses should lead this effort, and full implementation of the fair school funding formula will allow that to happen. Far too often it becomes the job of the school support staff to dispense medication which we want to prevent from happening again.

As you proceed with the discussion of this bill, we hope you are mindful of all the burdens we place on teachers and the roles they have to fulfill. Therefore, we recommend that the Committee review all the requirements that teachers and school staff must meet by Ohio laws while considering this bill and other similar legislation.