



Representative Lisa Sobecki
House District 45

Representative Paula Hicks-Hudson
House District 44

House Bill 565: Add Students as Non-Voting Members to State Board of Education
November 15, 2022
(As Prepared.)

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 testimony in support of House Bill 565. House Bill 565 adds student representatives to the State Board of Education.

Rep. Sobecki's office was contacted by two Ohio students after they provided public testimony during a State Board of Education meeting. We believe that students' voices during deliberations about important K-12 educational policy can be extremely enlightening and used to help craft better policy. During Rep. Sobecki's time as President of the Toledo Public School Board, they added a student representative and as result, the relationship between the Board and students improve. We believe the same thing would happen if students were added to the State Board of Education as well.

House Bill 565 adds five student representatives to the State Board of Education, one from each major region of the state, (NW, NE, CE, SW, SE). The students will be non-voting members and they will not receive compensation but be eligible for mileage reimbursement. Additionally, they will rotate their attendance at the Board meetings. The State Superintendent of Education in partnership with the Broadcast Educational Media Commission will select the representatives from nominees made from schools. Lastly, to be eligible, the students either have to be enrolled in an Ohio High School, or be 13 and enrolled in an early high school program.

Members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and we will be happy to answer any questions.