

Tecumseh Local Schools

9760 West National Road
New Carlisle, Ohio 45344
(937) 845-3576

Learning for All ~ Whatever it Takes!



May 10, 2021

Chairwoman Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson and Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

My name is Paula Crew and I am the Superintendent at Tecumseh Local Schools in Clark County. This is my twenty-eighth year working in the public school, with twenty-four of these years serving as either a building or district administrator. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent written testimony regarding HRC 13, which calls for a permanent transition to Daylight Savings Time.

The elimination of a time change, which currently occurs twice annually, will have multiple significant positive implications for students in the public school system throughout Ohio.

The first advantage that would occur by eliminating a time change would benefit every student in grades 3 - 12. Specifically, students in these grades are required to take state mandated assessments in the spring of each school year. When the spring time change occurs, this "sets our clocks forward" an hour resulting in the loss of one hour of sleep; as well as the need for a transition period to acclimate to this change. Students are expected to take the spring assessments shortly after the spring time change while in this transition period. Needless to say, this does not put our students in a position to perform to their optimum potential.

A second advantage of eliminating a time change in Ohio relates to our students on the Autism Spectrum, as well as other students who benefit from consistent routines each day. Oftentimes, students who have a diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum have varying levels of difficulty responding to a change in their schedule. Some reactions are mild, while others are quite intense. We have experienced students who have great difficulty transitioning with the fall and spring time change. Although school districts offer these students support during these transitions, eliminating this change would solve this particular issue.

Finally, Daylight Savings Time ensures our high school students and our walkers have daylight to help them navigate to school in the morning. Reducing the amount of time students need to drive in the dark or walk in the dark, will maximize the overall safety of our students. It is imperative to take advantage of maximizing student safety whenever possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Crew

Paula Crew, Ed.S.
Superintendent
Tecumseh Local Schools