

**Committees:**

Vice-Chair, Primary & Secondary Education  
Agriculture & Conservation  
Health  
Higher Education & Career Readiness



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**Representative Adam C. Bird**  
**Ohio House District 66**

**Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 583**  
**Before the Senate Committee on Primary & Secondary Education**  
**April 5, 2022**

Chair Brenner, Vice-Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor, and Members of the Senate Primary & Secondary Education Committee, thank you the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 583, which will help schools have sufficient personnel to teach students during the next two school years.

The manpower challenges for school districts continue to cause issues in providing uninterrupted teaching and instruction for students. This current school year has seen K-12 students forced into remote learning or cancelled class days because of a lack of substitute teachers. This bill will expand the pool of licensed substitutes that schools would have available and will reduce the number of remote learning or cancelled days caused by lack of available substitute teachers.

House Bill 583 does three very simple things:

- It gives local school boards the flexibility to recruit additional substitute teachers who don't have a bachelor's degree, so long as they:
  - Meet the district or the school's own educational requirements
  - Are of good moral character
  - And pass a criminal background check

These individuals are then issued a temporary, non-renewable substitute teaching license for one year. This is simply an extension of the same language which has been approved twice in the past two years in response to the pandemic, which will sunset on June 30, 2024.

- HB 583 creates a study committee to address the causes of the shortage of substitute teachers and examine ways to alleviate that shortage with more permanent solutions. The committee will be required to produce a report by October 30 of this year.
- And finally, we appropriate \$338 million from the Federal Fund Group to Federal School Lunch.

House Bill 583 will provide critical support and resources to our schools and allow students to attend classes for the entirety of the upcoming school year without disruption. We have gathered input on the language of this bill from a wide variety of stakeholders and interested parties, including local superintendents, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators, the Ohio School Boards Association, the Ohio Federation of Teachers, and the Ohio Education Association. The bill before you today is the result of many hours of discussions, committee work, and compromise which will provide critical support to our schools and allow students to attend classes for the entirety of the upcoming school year without disruption.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for your time and attention today. Representative Jones and I will be happy to answer your questions.