

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: November 27, 2023

Name: Scott Davie

Are you representing: Yourself ☐ Organization ☒

Organization (If Applicable): Talawanda School District

Position/Title: Principal

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☐ No ☒

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB258

Specific Issue: Impact of vape products on students.

Are you testifying as a: Proponent ☐ Opponent ☐ Interested Party ☒

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☒ No ☐

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 5-10 mins

Please provide a brief statement on your position: See attached.

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*



## Witness Information Statement RE: H.B. 258

The pervasive use of vape products among our students poses significant threats to their health and well-being. Research indicates that inhaling harmful substances present in e-cigarette aerosols can lead to various health issues, including respiratory and cardiovascular problems. Moreover, there is evidence suggesting a potential gateway effect, leading to the use of traditional tobacco and other substances such as THC and Delta-8. One of my primary responsibilities as Principal is to provide a safe and healthy environment for my students and staff. To fulfill this duty, I propose that we explore and enforce stricter regulations and penalties against the sale and use of vape products to minors.

The addictive nature of nicotine in vape products can detrimentally impact academic performance. Increased absenteeism, decreased attention spans, and impaired cognitive function hinder our students' ability to engage in meaningful learning activities and reach their full academic potential. Disciplinary actions resulting from the possession and use of vape products further disrupt the learning environment, leading to suspensions and a loss of instructional time. To address this issue more effectively, I suggest that we consider redirecting our disciplinary approach. Instead of solely disciplining end-users, we should focus on consequences for the point-of-sale sources, taking a more proactive step towards a viable, long-term solution.

Addressing the consequences of vaping among students comes with a considerable financial burden. Some districts have implemented costly measures such as vape detectors and increased security personnel. However, given our budget constraints, Talawanda has explored alternative and more cost-effective solutions. These include educational programs, partnerships with local health organizations, and the use of grants to fund preventive initiatives. Still, myself and my assistants find ourselves patrolling restrooms and spending time searching suspected users.

Certainly, tackling the use of vape products among students is a complex challenge requiring urgent attention. Although we are actively implementing proactive measures—enforcing regulations, redirecting our disciplinary approach, and exploring cost-effective solutions—these efforts predominantly focus on the end-user and fall short of addressing the issue at its root: the point of sale. It is with this recognition that I address you today, eager to participate in a constructive dialogue about collaborative endeavors aimed at resolving this pressing issue.

Yours in Education,

Scott Davie  
Principal, Talawanda High School  
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#THSFamily