

Chairman Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch, and Members of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to provide opponent testimony on Sub. Senate Bill 1.

Good Afternoon, my name is Christine Varwig, I am a Board Member of the Toledo Public Schools Board of Education and current President of the Ohio School Boards Association.

Please know I would have gladly attended this meeting in person, but as an elected official I myself have an obligation to attend my own Board of Education meeting tonight.

I, again, find myself in opposition to a bill that is looking to find an answer to a problem that does not exist. SB 1 would shift educational oversight from elected members of the State Board of Education to a partisan political appointee, depriving local communities the right to shape education policy.

I am in my 10th year serving on the Toledo Public Board of Education and I know my community. Each year we continue to focus on career tech options for our students. We have great relationships with our business community and are constantly seeking to expand educational opportunities and embed those opportunities within the very work force environments our students will enter into upon graduation while building relationships with industry. A few examples:

- TPS Aerospace Academy is located at the Airport
- TPS Natural Science Academy is located next to our Metroparks
- TPS Pre-Med Academy is located next to a hospital
- TPS Toledo Technology Academy of Engineering focuses on project-based learning; and a future EV program will be built on that campus next year
- TPS Jones Leadership Academy of Business is one of 2 schools in the country to offer Bloomberg Labs
- TPS Toledo Early College located on the campus of the University of Toledo
- We are expanding career focused academies in Construction, Educator Academy, Performing/ Fine Arts, and bi-lingual
- TPS offers over 30 career technical programs within our district
- TPS's rating in the 3-Es (Enlistment-Enrollment-Employment) has gone from 45% to 95% over the course of my tenure, all under the current State Board of Education structure



Board of Education
Educational Campus
1609 N. Summit Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604

TPS Career Technology



TPS Career Technology

Peterbilt teams with high school to train the next generation of diesel technicians

Toledo Public Schools in Toledo, Ohio, entered into a partnership with Ohio Peterbilt and Peterbilt Motors to provide Woodward High School diesel tech students access to Peterbilt's technician training and curriculum. The curriculum is the same one used by Peterbilt technicians, which is updated frequently alongside industry changes.

Peterbilt will also offer mentorship, with students able to receive face-to-face testimonials and class visits from industry professionals. Students will have internships, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training available to them, as well as job shadowing and worksite tours.

I encourage the Economic and Workforce Development Committee to vote against Sub Senate Bill 1.

We like our local control and our local voice on the State Board of Education of Ohio. We are not seeking another government department with their own vision/agenda of what we should or should not be doing in our community with respect to workforce development in our schools. There is no "problem" to fix.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to our state continuing to respect the voice of Ohio voters.

Sincerely,

Christine Varwig

Toledo Public Schools Board of Education Member

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