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Phillip M. Robinson Jr. State Representative Ohio House District 19

Committees:

Primary & Secondary Education, Ranking

Finance Subcommittee on Primary & Secondary Education

Financial Institutions

Higher Education

House Bill 569 Sponsor Testimony
House Finance Committee
June 12, 2024

Chair Edwards, Vice-Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the Ohio House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill (HB) 569, to reinstate the Joint Education Oversight Committee, commonly known as JEOC. My joint sponsor, Representative Joe Miller, and I look forward to productive conversations with the committee and all related stakeholders.

During the recent 133rd General Assembly, the Ohio House came together in bipartisanship and made a lot of progress on multiple educations issues. We put forward a unified plan to fix the EdChoice voucher program, laid the ground work to address the problems with the state report card system, and passed legislation to provide COVID-19 relief for students and schools, effectively end new Academic Distress Commissions (ADC) to build local means to reform struggling schools, and most importantly, pass the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) Ohio has needed for decades since the Ohio Supreme court ruled our past funding formula unconstitutional. However, both old and new challenges have risen up in K-12 education that I believe JEOC could help resolve and even improve these policy solutions.

Many of the policy issues and legislation I just highlighted passed in the House, but did not pass out of the Senate. Even with the House's bipartisan agreements, we still need bicameral agreement to make law.

JEOC was a bipartisan, bicameral body overseeing emerging education policy issues in Ohio. The committee comprised of members of both the majority and minority caucuses, and consisted of 5 senators and 5 representatives. The nature of JEOC helps create both bipartisan and bicameral ideas and solutions to crafting legislation through public hearings and dialogue.

- Party divisions and the already separated parallel work of the House and Senate can create silos that slow down the legislative process. JEOC can help bring both chambers and caucuses together from the start to work on education issues together in both hearings with experts and continued conversations outside of the committee.
- Imagine if JEOC had continued, the two chambers could have better resolved their differences on ADCs, vouchers, teacher retention, school funding, and other issues together instead of reaching dead-ends or weaker compromises.

19th House District: Southeast Cuyahoga County

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• As much as we would like to think all sides could come together without a vehicle such as JEOC, we all know it does not always work out that way. Let's rebuild bicameral and bipartisan conversations.

The other important aspect of JEOC beyond its bicameral structure, was its ability to provide cutting edge education policy research and options for the legislature. The committee staff provided non-partisan and detailed analysis, outside the traditional scope of our Legislative Service Commission (LSC) of the K-12 education system at a great value to taxpayers. Attached to this testimony at its end, you will find a list of research JEOC created when they existed.

The JEOC staff's past expertise and knowledge has already impacted Ohio's education policy and the bills we create for the better in a number of ways. Some examples include:

- Their research in the AI Scoring Engines Review brought to light the need for human scoring with students that normally receive high scores in writing but received 0 scores by the AI engines.
- Their research on the 2016 graduation requirements showed how the system had a negative impact on urban school districts across the state.
- Their work on the state report cards was essential for former Rep. Duffy's HB 591 as he attempted to develop improvements to the methods of assessing and measuring student performance, and that work continued last General Assembly with HB 200 and the reforms passed to improve the state school report cards.
- JEOC worked with the Cupp-Patterson, Fair School Funding Plan team and made various research contributions to the effort of fair school funding reform.
- With different legislators reaching out to JEOC on different education policies, the list could be extensive. In 2018, there were 20 research requests made to JEOC from legislators.
- Before JEOC was ended, last it made research and policy recommendation contributions to graduation requirements, ADC reform, state report cards, and more.

In conclusion, JEOC is an essential tool for providing the best information to create education policy. JEOC improves and streamlines bipartisan and bicameral policymaking, and provides specialized research and policy solutions for our children's education. Chair Edwards, Vice-Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the committee, once again we thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify before you today. We ask for your support of HB 569 and are happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

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Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC)
Research & Available Documents

- I. JEOC Briefings
 - ALEKS
 - Early Learning & Development
 - ODE Strategic Planning Work Group
 - 2018 Report Cards
 - Superintendent's Graduation Advisory Group
 - Value Added
- II. JEOC Reviews
 - Academic Distress Commission Youngstown
 - AI Scoring Engines
 - Chicago Child Parent Centers Program
 - Economic Impact of Preschools
 - GPA & EOC Graduation Points
 - Step up to Quality Validation Study
- III. JEOC Reports
 - Early Learning & Development Programs
- IV. JEOC Presentations
 - Ohio House Speaker's Taskforce on Education & Poverty
- V. JEOC Newsletters
 - 2016 August, September, October, November, December
 - 2017 January, February, March/April, May, June/July, August/September
 - 2018 All 12 months of the year.
 - 2019 January, February, March, April, May, June, July/August
- VI. JEOC Updates
 - March through September (24 total)
- VII. Report Card Papers
 - Achievement Brief
 - Achievement Review
 - Gap Closing Brief
 - Gap Closing Review
 - Graduation Brief
 - Graduation Review

19th House District: Southeast Cuyahoga County

Bedford – Bedford Heights – Bentleyville – Brecksville – Chagrin Falls Township – Chagrin Falls Village – Cleveland Ward 12 (partial) – Cuyahoga Heights – Glenwillow – Hunting Valley – Independence – Mayfield Heights – Moreland Hills – Newburgh Heights – Oakwood Village – Orange – Pepper Pike – Solon – Valley View – Walton Hills – Woodmere **Printed in house.**

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- Improving At Risk K-3 Readers Review
- JEOC Brief Value Added (4/19/2018)
- Overall Grade Review
- Prepared for Success Review
- Progress Review

VIII. Unreleased Drafts (Internally Approved)

- Academic Distress Commissions
- Assessment Report
- Benefit of Graduation Requirements
- Computer Adaptive Testing
- Graduation Rates
- Large Scale Assessment
- NAEP
- OST Validity
- Preschool: Review of Lipsey paper
- Proficiency
- Third Grade Reading Guarantee
- WorkKeys

Description:

JEOC Briefing: Provides a summary and highlights key information and facts on a topic, usually a few pages.

JEOC Review: The next step up from the Briefings, with additional and more in-depth analysis.

JEOC Report: Heavily researched and cited document, overall a much longer than the Briefings and Reviews.

JEOC Newsletter: Monthly released document that gives detailed updates on State Board of Education meetings and other important and related group meetings involving education policies.

JEOC Update: Weekly released document that provides summaries and links to official reports and new research from state agencies and other bodies related to education policies.

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