

Committees

Ranking Member, Constitutional
Resolutions
Civil Justice
Criminal Justice



Committees:

Homeland Security
Pensions
Public Utilities
Ohio Indigent Defense Task Force

Ismail Mohamed

State Representative, Ohio House District 3

Chair Edward's, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of House Finance Committee. Thank you for considering HB 585. This bill is a necessary bill to ensure that we are recognizing and supporting our students in middle school, high school, and other institutions of higher education who have religious dietary restrictions.

This bill simply created a pilot grant program and allocates \$300,000 to Director of Department of Agriculture to provide grants to middle schools, high schools, and institutions of higher education to establish, expand, or improve provisions that allow for kosher/halal foods to be prepared for students with religious restrictions.

This bill is not unique, and many states like California, Illinois, Washington, New York, New Jersey and many others have passed and/or considering similar legislation to recognize religious dietary restrictions of students. Passage of HB 585 would be a significant step and would send a message that we care about our Muslim and Jewish students.

I have received calls/emails from constituents, most often school age who recognize this issue. No child or student should have to choose between going hungry or violating their religious beliefs.

Thank you Chair Edward's, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of this committee for considering this bill. I will now turn it over to my joint sponsor, Rep. Adam Miller. Regardless of financial background. I urge your support for this vital legislation and am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ismail Mohamed", written over a horizontal line.

Ismail Mohamed
State Representative
Ohio House District 3