

99th House District

Parts of Ashtabula County
Parts of Geauga County

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street
12th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 466-1405
(800) 282-0253
(614) 719-0000 (Fax)
Rep99@ohiohouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov



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Primary and Secondary Education

Sarah Fowler Arthur
State Representative

Testimony, HB 147-Regards teacher licensure revocation, hiring practices, conduct

Thank you Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the committee for allowing my joint-sponsor, Representative Miller, and I to testify today on House Bill 147.

HB 147 is an updated version of HB 403 from the last General Assembly that passed the House 91-0.

That bill said if a teacher *retires* under investigation of misconduct, then they should be treated the same as a teacher who *resigns* under the same circumstances.

HB 147 would close the retirement loophole, but it also contains provisions recommended to us by the Ohio Department of Education.

Under current law, some individuals who are licensed by other state agencies must register with ODE to work in a school. These individuals include social workers, nurses, physical therapists, and speech-language pathologists.

The State Board currently has no authority to suspend or revoke the registration of an individual who engages in criminal activity or other inappropriate behavior.

This bill gives ODE and school districts greater authority to remove school employees who jeopardize student safety.

By doing so, we improve the school environment for students, teachers, administrators, and parents.

I will now give the joint-sponsor of HB 119, Representative Miller, the opportunity to share the provisions in HB 147 recommended by the Ohio Department of Education.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Fowler Arthur".

Sarah Fowler Arthur