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**Scott Wiggam**

State Representative  
77th Ohio House District

Chairman Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 266, which will require schools to update their emergency service plans to include evacuation procedures for individuals with disabilities.

This bill will require all Ohio public and chartered non-public schools that have more than one story to adopt plans no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Administrators must then update the emergency service plans for the school or district no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

This bill will also require schools to be in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 by creating specific and individualized evacuation plans for each student who has been identified with a physical disability that would require help during an evacuation.

The idea for this bill was given to me by a constituent from Wayne County named Julie Hartzler who identified that Ohio does not have standardized evacuation plans for students with physical disabilities. Julie has a personal story about her daughter with a physical disability being left behind during an evacuation drill. She has already begun working with schools in Wayne County to ensure

student safety, and I want to personally thank her for all her hard work.

Thank you once again for allowing me to testify on HB 266, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.