



Representative Bill Seitz
HB 407
Sponsor Testimony
April 23, 2024

Thank you, Representative Manning.

Chair Bird, Vice-Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 407.

HB 407 empowers parents, provides transparency on state dollars, and ensures that Ohio's students are receiving the best possible education for them. Under this bill, the Department of Education and Workforce will establish a system where parents can compare the performance data of students enrolled at schools accepting scholarship dollars to students in public schools who already provide this information. This way, parents can not only compare public schools to private schools, but also private schools to private schools.

The bill will do this by requiring the Department of Education and Workforce to create a new state report card for chartered non-public schools whose enrollment is at least 20% students participating in a scholarship program. This report card will include a state expenditure report, admission procedures, capacity,



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enrollment, and prior school year attendance reporting. After creating this, the Department will post this information on their website by September 15th each year for parents to compare private and public-school data at the same time.

HB 407 also requires that these schools take the same assessment and comply with graduation requirements prescribed for public schools. While most scholarship students take an alternative state assessment, we need to provide parents with an apples-to-apples comparison of student performance data. Until 2019, all scholarship students were required to take the state assessment. A provision in the 2019 budget was added in the Senate to create an exemption from the state assessment and graduation requirements for these students.

The scholarship program was created to provide parents with options to ensure their child can reach their full potential. The State has assisted parents with the financial aspect of this decision, but parents need access to proper data and information on how students in these schools are performing to make a decision of this magnitude. We all want to see Ohio's students and teachers succeed. Let's take a step in the right direction and empower parents and hold



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all schools accountable. I ask that my colleagues on this committee join me and Representative Manning in supporting HB 407.

Thank you Chair Bird, Vice-Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee for allowing us to speak today and we welcome any questions you may have.