



**State Representative Juanita Brent
22nd House District**

Sponsor Testimony - House Bill 387

Chairman Manning, Vice Chairman Fowler Arthur and Ranking Member Robinson, and the members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in support of HB 387, which aimed at dissolving existing academic distress commissions (ADCs) and repealing the associated laws.

HB387 is about creating an accountable educational system. The creation of Academic District Commissions (ADCs) was meant to help school districts that were struggling and performing poorly. However, the results have not improved even with the resources put into these commissions. Many districts are still facing the same issues and making no real progress. Since things aren't changing, we need to rethink our approach.

By dissolving the ADCs, we empower local school boards and district employees to regain the autonomy that citizens voted for them to have. Local leaders and educators understand their communities' specific needs and dynamics far better than any external commission. This legislation aims to restore control to those directly involved in the education process.

We can no longer apply the one-size-fits-all approach. The emergency clause in this bill ensures that no new academic distress commissions can be formed, preventing any repeats of ineffective oversight and ignoring the votes of communities.

I urge you to support this bill as it represents a pivotal step toward enabling our school districts to reclaim their rights. I respectfully ask this Committee to support House Bill 387. I am happy to address any questions you may have. Thank you for your time.