
Gregory A. Moon

601 Parkview Drive - Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351

To: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Re: Senate Bill No. 1

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

1:00 PM - South Hearing Room

IN SUPPORT

My name is Gregory Moon, and I am a constituent of the Ohio Senate 26th District. In my professional life, I am the Executive Director of the Wyandot County Office of Economic Development. In that capacity, I work with a number of private companies, public organizations, and educational partners on a daily basis. Today I am testifying in favor of the proposed Senate Bill Number 1 to revise K-12 State Education Governance.

In Wyandot County, the largest barrier to ongoing growth of local organizations and the new opportunities they create is workforce development. The challenge to find skilled employees has ranked as the Number 1 issue for local employers year-after-year in our annual business surveys. Without a steady pipeline of talent to staff their current needs, companies are reluctant to bring additional business to their facilities that would compound that need.

We are blessed to have high performing schools in Wyandot County that regularly partner with our office on ways to increase awareness of local employment opportunities. Unfortunately, these instances are few and far between the comprehensive educational opportunities that should be afforded to local students. Ohio's students deserve further educational opportunities for workforce preparation as they are currently afforded college preparation.

At the same time, Ohio used to be one of the top education systems in the nation, and recent rankings now have our state as low as 35th. To bring academic performance up to par, we must have effective leadership in our State Board of Education. The SBOE being unable to hold consistent leadership in its superintendent position is another obvious sign of a need for corrective action.

Ohio SB No. 1 sets a clear path forward for the State Board of Education, and further support to our career technical schools that are a key component in the K-12 education system. The leadership model and duties assigned to the restructured Department of Education and Workforce places a renewed focus on preparing our youth for their future, while building the needed supply of talent for Ohio businesses to succeed.

As Ohioans, we are doing ourselves a disservice by being complacent as our public education system continues to trail behind its peers. A change is needed, and SB No. 1 is a productive start.

Sincerely,



Gregory A. Moon

Executive Director – Wyandot County Office of Economic Development