

## PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR SB 49

Mohamed Ali

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, and Ranking Member Ingram, my name is Mohamed Ali and I represent the Somali American Community and on behalf of the Muslim Community in Ohio. I am here to testify in support of SB49.

We, as Muslim Americans, fully support Senate Bill 49. We want our kids to celebrate the EID Islamic holiday just like Christian students celebrate Christmas with their families or just like Jewish students celebrate Hanukkah without worrying about missing homework, quizzes or tests. We should celebrate and embrace the Eid Islamic Holiday fairly, equally like Christmas and Hanukkah. We are American just like all other Americans.

We support this bill because:

- It permits students to be absent up to three days for religious and spiritual reasons
- it allows one to freely practice their religion without the state interfering
- it ensures students will not be penalized for missing class, examinations and other class work
- and it requires school districts are required to provide an opportunity for students to makeup any missed examinations or academic work

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.