

Legislation that has the potential to affect thousands of Ohio students should not be rushed through at the end of the General Assembly. SB 295 would take away local control and put the decision to close schools into the hands of legislators who are not familiar with the dynamics in every building. Local school board members are the people who know and understand the reasons behind the test scores. They are able to understand why scores are suffering, and they have the ability to suggest policies and changes that their district administrators can employ to make improvements. What will the outcome be for students in buildings with low scores when decisions about their futures are being made by people who have never been in their school building, or even in their community? How will students be bussed to schools that are far from their homes when it's already a challenge for districts to find bus drivers? Why do you believe that closing buildings is the answer? Perhaps more consideration needs to be given to teacher training, adequate funding for support services for students, and more resources for all students. Buildings are not the cause of the problem. A lack of overall support for public education in Ohio is the problem. Every elected official owes it to the students and families in Ohio to stop this harmful bill from moving forward.

Thank you,

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