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Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 145
Before the House Education Committee
March 25, 2025

Chairwoman Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 145.

HB 145 proposes to return some of the lost instructional time back to our students that was taken away in 2014.

In 2014 and prior, Ohio schools were required to be in session 180 days with a possible 5 calamity days. Then the General Assembly changed the required instructional requirement to 1,001 hours for grades 7-12 and 910 hours for grades K-6. The impact of this dramatic change was huge, and detrimental to our students. To try to compare, this took away anywhere from 20 days to 14 days depending on how long a school was in session each day.

Over the last 10 years, schools have allowed for a slow erosion of time for students in schools. They have replaced time for students in school with additional days off, and with "workdays", "data days", and "professional development days" for teachers.

If this bill were to pass, Ohio would go from 1,001 hours to 1,054 hours for grades 7-12. For comparison, Kentucky requires 1,062 hours, Michigan requires 1,098 hours, and West Virginia requires 1,080 hours. Time in front of a teacher matters, not only for academic performance, but also for the development of the soft skills that they will utilize in their employment later in life. We must not allow our students to fall further behind.

Chairwoman Fowler Arthur and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important resolution. I am happy to answer your questions.