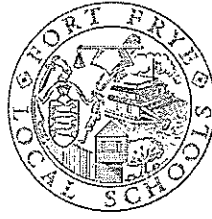


Fort Frye Local School District



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Proponent Testimony for HB62 House Education Committee March 31, 2025

Chairwoman Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testify today. My name is Dr. Stephanie Starcher. I am the Superintendent of Fort Frye Local Schools in Washington County and Member of the Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools.

Our Coalition and its member superintendents are in favor of all provisions included in the HB62.

Last school year, Fort Frye students earned 712 college credit hours on our high school campus taught by our credentialed faculty. For a variety of reasons, some of our students choose to complete college courses online. During the 2023-2024 school year, Fort Frye's students completed 521 college credit hours online. This number has continued to increase in recent years because the online learning option is becoming more and more popular with students.

These online courses do not require live synchronized interaction with students, and material can easily be reused from semester to semester. The staffing responsibility is not as great as in-person instruction. Therefore, the cost charged to the K-12 school system should be greatly reduced as would be required by HB 62.

If HB 62 is passed, Fort Frye Local Schools would reduce its CCP budget by 30%, saving the district approximately \$43,000.

Further, a second component of HB 62 would require the use of free textbook resources when available. When such resources are not available for free through Open Source, HB 62 would mandate that the institution of higher education split the cost of textbooks with the school system. Last year, Fort Frye Schools spent \$12,250.28 on textbooks for CCP. HB 62 would at minimum reduce this amount to half and likely even a greater reduction due to the requirement to use Open Source when available for materials.

Finally, it is important to note that while the online CCP course option is becoming more and more popular with high school students, it is having a negative impact on school culture because often some of the brightest and most engaged students are now not regularly on our high school campus. This

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results in a huge leadership void and fewer role models overall for students. As a expert in how children learn, I would argue that typically young minds gain the most knowledge and skills from in-person instruction, where there is social construction of knowledge and direct instruction from a teacher with immediate feedback.

Fort Frye Local Schools is a strong advocate for HB 62, and encourages Ohio legislators to support this proposed law.

Thank you for your time, I would be glad to answer any questions the committee may have.

Dr. Stephanie
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WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 3-31-25

Name: Dr. Stephanie Starcher

Are you representing: Yourself ☐ Organization ☒

Organization (If Applicable): Fort Frye Local Schools

Position/Title: Superintendent

Address: 510 5th St.

City: Marionetta State: OH Zip: 45715

Best Contact Telephone: 304-615-0603 Email: stephanie.starcher@fortfrye.org

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☐ No ☒

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 62

Specific Issue: Proponent of Bill to Address Financial Need

Are you testifying as a: Proponent ☒ Opponent ☐ Interested Party ☐

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☒ No ☐
not in person

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? written testimony only

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I am the Superintendent of Fort Frye Local Schools and a member of the Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools, which both support HB62 to address funding issues for online CCP courses and CCP textbooks.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Dr. Stephanie Starcher

