

MR. AIDAN C. HAGGARD

CHAIR OF THE A.B.C. COMMITTEE, SENATOR
401 COLLEGE AVENUE - BOX 538
ASHLAND COUNTY, OHIO 44805

TELEPHONE: 330-907-0051

"FIAT JUSTITIA, RUAT CAELUM"

PROPONENT TESTIMONY BEFORE THE OHIO HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
05/20/2025 2:45AM E.S.T.

Chair Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and Members of the House Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of House Bill 117.

As a recent graduate of Medina High School and as a candidate for the school district therein, I take great pride in the work that me and my great friend did in order to bring back the pledge of allegiance and the veterans day assembly back to our high school. But before there was high school, there was middle and elementary school.

In elementary school, it was such an honor to be able to be one of the chosen few to go on our school's television station and say the pledge of allegiance with our class before all of our fellow students. In middle school, for two years I was selected to be there voice of the morning public address system for my seventh & eighth grade years. I was not perfect, always going too fast or too slow in saying it, but either way I felt patriotic doing it.

But at high school, there was no pledge of allegiance. Every morning was as cold and quiet as the next one. This bothered a fellow student and so he came to me asking for help solving the issues. I happily obliged and so we worked together to get signatures from fellow patriotic students. The fall after I graduated, the pledge was back. After several decades, it was back at Medina High School.

My senior year of high school, I planned the veterans day assembly and it went amazing. John Phillip Sousa roared and Francis Scott Key was sung by the school. The patriotic fervor of all the students and staff was so strong and so great, that it was hard not to be proud to be an American. The benefit from these to our school was so strong, that I hope that this legislature may pass HB 117, so that all of the Buckeye Students could feel the same patriotic fervor of our forefathers. Let us do this by supporting House Bill 117. Thank you for your time and I encourage questions.

THROUGH THE CHAIR AND TO THE MEMBER

