

65th House District:

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David Thomas

State Representative for the 65th House District

Testimony before the Ohio Senate Education Committee on March 11th, 2025

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, Members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on this legislation. As Representative Fowler Arthur shared, this measure is an important step in ensuring that the students of Ashtabula Area City Schools are not unduly punished or burdened following a uncontrollable weather event.

The structure, as you can see in photos I have submitted following the snow storm, is very likely a total loss in the parts in which the roof has collapsed. This is due to water damage, buckling walls, and exposure to the elements. Additionally, the High School is currently the staging area for a good amount of local emergency personnel and the public in the event of a nuclear issue at the Perry Plant, weather emergency, and other first responder needs.

All of which to say, the community, school personnel, and frankly students have many things to be focused on and preparing for right now outside of a rule requirement that the school will be able to meet the spirit of, but not the black and white text. We can debate and discuss the number of hours or other requirements at anytime that should be in place for the future, but for the students right now facing the issues today, we need this legislation.

Thank you for your time and attention, we are happy to discuss questions or details.

State Representative David Thomas
65th District

