Senate Education Committee
House Bill 127 Proponent Testimony
Buckeye Association of School Administrators

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 127. My name is Paul Imhoff with the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, which represents Ohio's public school superintendents and administrators. Joining me in support of this testimony is Malania Birney with the Ohio School Boards Association and Katie Johnson with the Ohio Association of School Business Officials.

In today's digital era, access to information becomes easier by the minute, but sensitive information of Ohio's students, like names, addresses, weight, and height, are currently mandated to be released upon request and the requests may even remain anonymous. As technology and access to information evolve, so too must our laws to better protect Ohioans, especially our children and students. House Bill 127 does just that.

The bill exempts from Ohio's Public Records Law student directory information, which Ohio law defines as a "student's name, address, telephone listing, data and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of athletes, dates of attendance, date of graduation, and awards received." The bill also allows boards of education to choose not to release or permit access to this information.

Just like last session's new requirements in Senate Bill 29, which sought to protect the privacy and information of our students when they are online, this bill helps protect the privacy of our kids and our families. It also keeps decisions about whether to release this information with the locally elected boards of education who know their communities best.

In closing, House Bill 127 protects Ohio students and maintains local control of our schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.