

June 12, 2017

To the Honorable Members of The State of Ohio House of Representatives,

I am writing you to express my support for House Bill 181 - The Student and Teacher Liberty Act (HB 181) . I am a member of the Riverside Local Schools Board of Education in Lake County, and although I am writing on my own behalf, I know I speak for many in Riverside community who want control of the Riverside academic curriculum back in the hands of state and local officials.

The Riverside Local Schools has a very talented group of administrators and teachers who are more than capable of determining the best curriculum for the students in our district with concurrence from our directly elected Board of Education. This talented staff, who are closest to the parents, students and voters, has the knowledge, experience and ability to develop curriculum which is most beneficial to the future personal success of our students, while operating within the education guidelines established by the State of Ohio.

Additionally HB 181 contains provisions which emphasizes the study of America's foundational documents, including the The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Northwest Ordinance, and the Ohio Constitution, which we all took an oath to uphold. Studying these key documents will allow us to graduate engaged citizens who understand the heritage of our country, as well as, their obligation to pass that heritage onto the next generation.

Finally, passing HB 181 will allow the State of Ohio to implement a more reliable and enduring assessment system for all students in Ohio. As a parent with two children in the Riverside Local Schools, one of their biggest complaints has been the ever changing state-wide testing requirements over the last several years. I have also heard similar complaints from administrators and teachers who find it frustrating and challenging to do their best for the students when there is constant uncertainty in the standards which need to be met. This needs to stop with the passage of HB 181.

To quote Thomas Jefferson, "The government closest to the people serves the people best." Our goal as local and state officials should be to facilitate government which serves our communities the best, and HB 181 does that. Please vote affirmatively for this bill, and let those closest to the people do their jobs in serving the public.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hach
Riverside Local Schools
Member, Board of Education