



Education and Career Readiness Committee
Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Testimony on House Bill 438

Craig Burford, Executive Director, Ohio Educational Service Center Association

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Slaby, Ranking Minority Member Fedor and members of the Ohio House Education and Career Readiness Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today as an Interested Party on HB 438.

The bill as introduced would permit a “local” school district that transferred territory prior to 2011 to sever its territory from its current ESC and annex its territory to an adjacent ESC. This would allow a “local” district that changed ESCs under previous law to go back to its original ESC for the purposes of having an elected board member(s). The Ohio ESC Association (OESCA) supports this provision of the bill.

The bill would also grant permissive authority to the governing board of any ESC to add appointed members to the board; certain merged ESCs have this ability under existing law.

OESCA supports a reform-minded approach to governance that treats all ESCs the same and that provides flexibility and local decision making in the determination of what ESC governance should look like on an ESC-by-ESC basis depending on the needs of the individual organizations and the districts and communities they serve.

Under such an approach, the publicly-elected members of an ESC governing board should have the ability to appoint a limited number of additional members with the experience, knowledge and skills to advance the mission and vision of the ESC in a manner that adheres to an ESC governance plan adopted pursuant to the proposed bill.

Ohio's current ESC governance structure is reflective of a bygone era in which our primary customers were "local" school districts and our client base was bound by geographic territory. Neither of those is true anymore. The bill before you begins to move ESC governance in a more positive direction reflective of current realities including our client base and the programs and services provided by our members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

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