



*The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.*

## **OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

### **Senate Education Committee – June 13, 2019**

#### **Opposition Testimony – Proposed ADC Amendment (133HB166-SC3117X7)**

The Ohio Education Association opposes the proposed Academic Distress Commissions (ADC) amendment that is being considered in the Senate Education Committee on June 13, 2019.

The proposed ADC amendment doubles-down on the failed policy of overreaching state government takeovers of local school districts. It would result in more school districts being swallowed by state government more quickly. Ohio does not need this or want this.

The proposal maintains the disastrous state takeover law already in place. Further, it expands state takeovers by creating a new consultant-based takeover model. This extension of the state takeover apparatus allows state government to more quickly consume local governance of school districts and interfere with community decisions about the future of their children.

Ohio knows the state takeover law is a failure and a fiasco. The law should be repealed and local control should be restored. The tragic experiences of school districts and communities already taken over provides ample evidence that Ohio should not plunge further into the depths of top-down government control and manipulation of local school districts and communities.

There is a better path to take. OEA strongly supports the HB 154 bi-partisan approach to ADC reform that was passed by the Ohio House 83-12 and also included in the bi-partisan state budget bill (HB 166) passed by the Ohio House.

#### **OEA asks the Ohio Senate to support the bi-partisan HB 154 ADC reform language already included in HB 166. The HB 154 ADC language will do the following:**

- **Repeal** the ill-conceived law that allows the state to takeover local school districts,
- **Restore** local control and teacher collective bargaining rights, and
- Hold all school districts **accountable** for locally-developed school improvement teams and student-centered improvement plans in F-rated school buildings.

The HB 154 ADC language recognizes that the Ohio General Assembly best serves the interests of students, school districts and local communities by seeking to partner with them, not seeking unilateral control over them.

By supporting the HB 154 ADC language, the Ohio General Assembly will lay the groundwork for strong and productive partnerships with school districts and local communities. This is what our students need.

Thank you for your public service and consideration of this testimony.

