

Interested Party Testimony in Support of HB 123
February 4, 2020

Joseph Suozzi, Director of Safety, Security & Preparedness, Olentangy Local Schools

Chairman Lehner and members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify as an interested party on behalf of Olentangy Local School District on House Bill 123.

My name is Joe Suozzi and I am the Director of Safety, Security, and Preparedness for the school district. Prior to that, I served as a supervisory special agent and unit chief with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Olentangy local schools is one of the fastest growing school districts in the Midwest. It is comprised of 95 square miles and over 20,000 students. In an ever-changing environment, our student's safety remains a top priority for the school district.

We support the requirements laid out in HB123 and have in fact already implemented many of them.

We utilize software from NaviGate Prepared to assist in managing school safety and threat assessment information. It is important that the state supports the use of current technology serves to manage all safety information. We believe it helps us streamline our reporting to the state.

The training provided by the staff at ALICE is an important part of our emergency management plan. We encourage members of the committee in your consideration of the bill, to ensure that we do not lose our ability to continue working in our successful partnerships.

I am not an expert in crafting changes to the law, but we have had a strong record of keeping our children safe. I trust that you will take the necessary steps to make sure that any credible organization who seeks to improve school safety will be afforded that chance.

Thank you, and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have about school safety.