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Reggie Stoltzfus State Representative 50th Ohio House District

Sponsor Testimony: HB 240 House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 240

This bill makes much-needed changes to ORC 3313.6011, which prescribes the requirements for risk avoidance education in Ohio schools. The goal of this legislation is to increase the transparency of sex education in Ohio schools, so that parents and guardians remain in control of the education their children are receiving. Unfortunately, there are numerous examples of schools who are teaching comprehensive sex education and other programs that only pay lip service to the abstinence requirements.

Specifically, this bill will do the following:

- Require a school or district to notify all parents or guardians if the school or district is planning to teach their children additional instruction in venereal disease education or comprehensive sexual education not specified in ORC 3313.6011.
- Prohibit a school or district from teaching the specified additional instruction unless the parents or guardians of school children have opted them into the additional instruction.
- Require the State Board of Education to conduct an annual audit of each school district at the start of each school year relative to the school districts' compliance with the instruction requirements of ORC 3313.6011.
- Require the State Board of Education to publish the findings of each audit no later than 120 days after the start of the school year.
- Permit parents or guardians the ability to bring a civil action against a school district who is determined to be out of compliance with the requirements of ORC 3313.6011.

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee: Thanks again for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 240. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.