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Friday, March 4, 2022

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide information regarding House Bill (HB) 583. I am Craig Hurley, Superintendent of Upper Scioto Valley Local School District. I am here today to testify in support of HB 583.

There has been a drastic decrease in the number of substitute teachers over the last several years. The decrease started before the covid pandemic, and I do not foresee it getting better anytime soon. In February of 2018 our sub list had 35 names provided by the MRESC. The latest list had 16 names listed. There is currently less than half the substitutes that were available in 2018. These substitutes are shared between many districts and at times it becomes difficult to cover all classes.

There have been times that we needed to make decisions to move Title I Reading Teachers and Intervention Specialists out of their normal positions and cover general education classrooms in order to have school. High School and Middle School teachers are often asked to give up planning time to cover classes adding pressure to an already stressed staff. Administrators substitute teaching takes away from many of their normal roles and activities. We even were forced to go remote for two days last year at the Middle and High School due to the lack of substitute teachers.

This year we have had three people board approved through the temporary license allowance in SB1. Two of these are USV graduates and enrolled in teacher preparation programs at local colleges. The other person is a long-time basketball coach in our district. All three of these people have done an excellent job and helped to keep school in session. They have also helped to alleviate the moving of staff from their normal position to cover a general education classroom. This has been a rewarding experience for all three of these substitute teachers and has greatly benefited the Upper Scioto Valley School District.

Thank you, Representatives Bird and Johnson, for sponsoring HB 583. If these substitutes and others like them are not available in the future, Upper Scioto Valley will have a shortage of substitutes again and will be forced to go back to make the best bad decision available. Please consider supporting and approving HB583. I totally agree with and support the five-day limit for long term substitutes. But for the short term, one or two days these temporary substitutes have been very much appreciated.

Thanks,

Craig M. Hurley
Superintendent
Upper Scioto Valley Schools

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