From:

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Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Education Committee:

I’m writing in support of Senate Bill 34, which would require Ohio school districts to start after Labor Day.

I have a daughter who graduated from Thomas Worthington High School in 2012. Over the course of her K-12 education, the first day of school started creeping backward into August. That trend has continued and will continue into the future, as shown below.

School Year: Start - End

2014-15: Aug 18 - May 28

2015-16: Aug 19 - May 25

2016-17: Aug 17 - May 24

2017-18: Aug 16 - May 23

2018-19: Aug 15 - May 22

My problem with moving the school start date earlier and earlier into August is in relation to the particulars of Ohio weather. August and the first week of September are typically the warmest and driest weeks of our Ohio summers and are well-suited to outdoor activities such as swimming, boating, hiking and camping. Late May and early June are often cool and damp.

As our youth become more and more dependent on consuming entertainment and information on electronic screens, providing more time for outdoor recreation and activities would seem a good idea. Orienting the summer break to end after Labor day would align the break with better weather, encourage more outdoor activity, and also allow families to attach and extend a week of vacation to the Labor Day weekend.

Sincerely,

Bill Nordquist

Worthington