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Lorain City School District

House Bill 70

ADC Impact Testimony

May 29, 2019

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Terhar, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the impact of the Academic Distress Commission (ADC) in Lorain City School District.

To all those who sit before me today, my name is Kyle Czatt and I am a recent graduate of Lorain High. Much like everyone else here, I am here to voice my concern for the future of the Lorain City Schools district. I want to start off by saying that I’m absolutely appalled by the a recently published article by the Chronicle highlighting David Hardy Jr.’s ignorance and troubling mindset. In the article by Carissa Woytach, she includes Hardy’s side of an obtained email between him and the state appointed members of the distress commission. Here, Hardy felt the need to warn them about “hot topics” that could have come up at a meeting held on March 19th in which one of these topics Hardy was so worried about, was us students speaking on the behalf of our teachers. To quote the man himself, he says:

“I would not be surprised if scholars speak on behalf of teachers. My hunch is that it will (be) in favor of teachers in our (College Credit Plus) classrooms, the scholars who have spoken up in the past are in the CCP program and do have good teachers for the most part and/or have parents who are teachers. It saddens me that children may be used for political gain”

When I came across this article Thursday afternoon, I was shaken to my core. The fact that the man was put in place to correct LCS’ dysfunctional educational system, views a great number of his high school students, NOT scholars, as political objects that are being controlled by our teachers and parents to shut down his ideas and actions.

As a former CCP student for the past 3 years and someone who nearly obtained an Associates degree through this program, let me state that this is indeed not the case. I, and many more students, are competent enough to understand the political era we have entered this past school year, and we all became very passionate about what has occurred a did our best to speak from our hearts with no strings attached.

I’m disgusted and disappointed to have been labeled as a political object in this almost civil-war like atmosphere that Hardy has created. A leader should be build and grow with his followers to a better future, not abuse his power to separate and destroy.