Ronald Shadd

Testimony: Proponent of the HB166 that contains the original language and intend of HB154

Greeting to Chairperson Lehner, Vice Chairperson Terhar, Ranking Committee member Fedor, and the Senate Education Committee,

Proponent of the HB166 that contains the original language and intent of HB154

Over the past few months, we have testified to the House Education Committee, the State School Board, to the communities negatively impacted by HB 70  East Cleveland, Lorain, and Youngstown, and to you the Senate Education Committee. With every forum we have witnessed growing concerns of the ineffectiveness of the HB 70.  The House of Representatives voted 82-12 to eliminate HB 70 by Supporting HB 154. The State School Board passed a resolution recognizing the failures of HB 70 and the need for its repeal. You, the Senate Education Committee heard hours of testimony on May 29, 2019 from Ohio Citizens from districts governed by HB 70, those who are not affected by HB 70, that HB 70 is bad for students, families, communities, and for education.

In fact the only testimony heard by you, the Senate Education Committee on May 29, 2019 that supported HB 70 and the negative results of this legislation are all those that benefit financially and professionally from its existence. CEO’s of those districts stood in front of you and plainly lied of the results of HB 70 and the standing and performance of their districts both financially and academically. All anyone needs to do to debunk their claims is to review the financial five year forecast and the state report cards for districts before and during the CEO’s tenure. The CEO and Academic Distress Commission lead districts are failing Students and Communities.

If HB 166 is to be the saving grace of education in Ohio, please do not double down on the negative, unfruitful, unilateral measure of HB 70.  Renaming the failure of HB 70 does not remedy the failures of HB 70’s bad legislation.

We ask that there be no School Improvement Commission. The make up of this body continues to give unilateral control to the State and not to the citizens of those impacted communities. Changing the members to 6 from 5 is no better, especially when the Education Union member has no power to vote. This design still supersedes the Elected Board of Education. If there is to be a School Improvement entity it should be governed by the Elected Board of Education and the district Superintendent. This is essentially what HB 154 developed with the creation of the Transformation Specialist. Please honor the intent of HB154, we ask that there be no School Improvement Commission doing so is a plan for continued failure.

Renaming the CEO to a Director with the same unilateral authority is still bad for students, communities, and for education in Ohio. The design of this position continues to supersede the Elected Board of Education and the School Improvement Commission that you the Senate Education Committee created. This design is textbook HB 70. This design is bad legislation that promotes no change from HB 70. We ask that you the Senate Education Committee Closely examine the failures of HB 70 in the Youngstown City School District. Examine the overspending and the lack of spending in the classroom of $13 million less under HB 70. Examine the unsustainable top heavy management design of our district created by a CEO and ADC under HB 70. Examine the state report card for our district and see how in almost every category the CEO and ADC HB 70 design has failed students.

On May 29, 2019 you the Senate Education Committee heard testimony from the CEO of YCSD. During this time CEO Mohip was on FMLA for his father that does not live in Ohio. It is said that his father resides in Chicago. If Mr. Mohip’s father is in good health for CEO Mohip to testify to you the Senate Education Committee, why hasn’t CEO Mohip returned to work in Youngstown? He only testified for his well-being and for not the children of Youngstown. I ask you to not take his word for the conditions of our district but for you to examine the information provided in the State Report Card and the District’s Financial Five Year Forecast.

We ask that you do something that is good for education and eliminate the CEO/Director from HB166. Honor the intent of HB 154 and reinstate local control. Stop the failures of HB 70.

To develop a School Transformation Board equates to more resources being spent that creates more bureaucracy not a solution for challenged districts. We ask you the Senate Education Committee to not create legislation that will weigh down and slow down the process for challenge districts to improve. We ask that you the Senate Education committee honor the intent of HB 154 and eliminate obstacles that impede upon the progress of districst to reach state standards.

Please stay true to the intent and language of HB 154 our children and communities are counting on you.