

Senate Education Committee  
Senate Bill 319 Interested Party Written Testimony  
Springfield Local School District (Lucas County)  
June 10th, 2020

Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Education Committee thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony regarding Senate Bill 319. My name is Ryan Lockwood and I am the Treasurer/CFO of the Springfield Local School District in Holland, OH and the proud parent of a soon to be 5th grader at Woodmore Local Schools in Woodville, OH.

Springfield Local Schools would like to express thanks to Senator Matt Huffman for sponsoring this important legislation. It is crucial that all school districts across the great State of Ohio are utilizing the same guidelines as we attempt to return to the new normal for primary education.

One important aspect that the Springfield Local Schools would like to see included into this crucial legislation is further codified guidance as it relates to the use of public school facilities by the general public. A few months ago, the Springfield Local School District made the tough decision to block the Lucas County Board of Elections from using our facilities as a polling site for the March 2020 primary elections. This further involved the Lucas County Board of Elections filing an injunction against the District to utilize our facilities. Ultimately, the problem resolved itself as in-person voting was cancelled due to the pandemic. However, we are still working through litigating this matter to bring attention to protecting our students from all possible threats.

Three years ago, we began requesting that the Lucas County Board of Elections move polling sites away from our public school facilities. The Administration and Board of Education was doing so to mitigate the threat of physical violence by a non-Springfield affiliated patron utilizing our facilities. Today, we are now dealing with both physical and viral threats. Further outside access to our facilities increases the likelihood of a negative impact on our staff or students. My number one job is to see that each student returns safely home at the end of the school day. Legislative help limiting public access to our facilities will aid Springfield Local Schools in accomplishing this most important mission.

In addition to removing polling sites from public school buildings, the Springfield Local School District needs legislative help in minimizing the usage of our school facilities by the general public. The District is still having a difficult time acquiring the necessary cleaning supplies to adequately sanitize our facilities. Public school districts are not a priority client of our chemical

suppliers and thus products are being first supplied to those on the frontline of this pandemic. Having "open to the public" facilities further puts stress on our already limited supply of COVID-19 approved cleaning supplies. As of June 9th, 2020, the District had only 14 to 21 days worth of COVID-19 eradicating cleaning supplies on hand. This supply level is for typical school day usage only. If we increase our daily cleanings or have an influx in facility usage by the general public, the District will run out of cleaning supplies much faster.

The Springfield Local School District asks that the legislature include provisions to move polling sites to other municipal or public locations where large populations do not congregate on a daily basis, as they do in our public school buildings. We also ask that the legislature allow for local control as it relates to when a school district can close its facilities to the general public. Currently, we can not adequately prepare for the return of our students if our staff has to be concerned with sanitizing our facilities for repeated general public usage.

Chair Lehner and members of the Senate Education Committee, we are extremely appreciative of the work done to put Senate Bill 319 together and for the positive outcomes that it will have in moving public education forward in our new normal.

Kind Regards,



P. Ryan Lockwood III  
Treasurer/CFO  
Springfield Local Schools