

**Proponent Testimony for SB 358  
Senate Education Committee  
September 2, 2020**

**Lorain City School District**  
2601 Pole Avenue  
Lorain, Ohio 44052

Testimony provided by **Daniel G. Hilson, Legislative Counsel**

## Proponent Testimony on SB 358

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor, and Members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee.

My name is Dan Hilson and I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 358 on behalf of our client, Lorain City Schools. While we greatly appreciate the waiver for end-of-year proficiency testing during this unprecedented time, without the stoppage of progressive punishments contained in Revised Code Section 3302.10 (J)-(N) the duly-elected Lorain City School Board would be dissolved next year, its fourth year of being an academically distressed district. We wholeheartedly support these particular provisions contained in SB 358.

However, we would also like to call to your attention the ironic situation that the suspension of end-of-year student performance tests creates. This situation will unfortunately lock the Lorain City School District into perpetual ADC purgatory. Such a school would have no way to escape ADC for at least two years after performance exams resume. I would like to remind the Committee that the last year that the State's end-of-year proficiency tests were administered, school year 2018-2019, Lorain City School District had raised its report card score from an F to a D. We also know that the performance of as few as a half-dozen students can have a

significant impact on a school's report card score. It is possible that Lorain has sustained its improved score, but without some other acceptable mechanism to verify improvement, ADC schools like Lorain are stuck.

We will be happy to work with the Committee over the next few weeks to find a suitable alternative for demonstrating academic improvement and would hope that you would consider supporting such an alternative. We are not requesting an automatic pass, but rather a suitable substitute target to hit and prove sustained academic performance. I thank you in advance for supporting the adoption of SB 358 and hope that you will also lend support to a substitute mechanism for proving sustained academic improvement.

I would be happy to entertain any questions from the Committee. Thank you.