

Testimony in Support of H.B. 111

Ohio House of Representatives
Primary and Secondary Education Committee
Representative Don Jones, Chair
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North College Hill City School District

Chairman Jones, Vice-Chair Manchester, Ranking Member Robinson, Jr. and Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for letting me share testimony today. My name is Helen O'Rourke. I am currently serving my community as a School Board Member in North College Hill, a small community in Southwest Ohio. I am offering testimony today in favor of H.B. 111, which addresses the amount of time that public or chartered nonpublic schools have to transmit a transferred student's records.

Under our district's board policy, when a new student is enrolling his or her parent or guardian must provide a transcript or a copy of a recent report card. For many of the families that we serve, this is difficult for them to produce. Until we have the records from the transferring school, our district does not know exactly where to place the student as well as the extent of any specialized services that the student may need. The student's ability to access the appropriate education in a timely fashion is thus affected. H.B. 111 and the statutory requirement that it legislates will make a tremendous difference to the students and families that we serve. Students will be placed more quickly into their appropriate class, and any specialized services that they may need (Special Education, Gifted and Talented, English Language Learner) will be initiated faster making any gaps in their education much smaller.

In conclusion, I am in favor of H.B. 111 and the continuity of education that it will foster. I am in support of a statutory time frame for the transmittal of student's records as it will alleviate a burden for many of our families and ensure that our students are being educated where it will benefit them the most. Thank you to the Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee for the opportunity to share my testimony today.