



Representative Al Cutrona
59th Ohio House District

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for HB 54.

It is my pleasure to work with Representative Miller on this legislation that is so desperately needed by our students, teachers, and school administrators. My passion for this bill comes from the simple fact that no one knows how to make our schools better than the community around it. HB 70, the bill that this legislation is striving to correct, took away the most essential part of the education system, the community.

We are currently under a system that brings the heavy hand of the State down on school districts that are struggling the most, and this heavy hand has done nothing to help. Like Representative Miller said, this bill restores community ownership over school districts. It is this community ownership, not a CEO, that will allow districts to create improvement plans that serve students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and the community as a whole.

It is my hope that the members of this committee share the same sentiment that the people best equipped to help a struggling school district succeed are the members of the community around it, not the heavy hand of the State and an appointed CEO. I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony, and my joint-sponsor and I welcome any questions that you may have.

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