



Ohio Senate

Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-4538 Office
Antani@ohiosenate.gov

Committees:

Health - Vice Chair
Financial Institutions & Technology
Judiciary
Transportation
Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee
Select Committee on Gaming
Correctional Institution Inspection Committee

Niraj Antani

State Senator
6th District

SB 248 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee
October 26, 2021

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to give testimony on Senate Bill 248, which will require schools to provide a daily moment of silence for students.

Currently, our schools “may” provide a moment of silence each day. SB 248 simply changes the “may” to a requirement. Students that have been experiencing this moment of silence have shared that it calms them, reduces their stress, helps them focus, raises their self-esteem, and makes them happy. In this time of uncertainty, this is exactly what the kids need.

Beyond the emotional response from the students, this moment of silence has many benefits. Increases in self-esteem reduce the chances of drug addiction, suicide, and gun violence. It also increases the feeling of community in the school as each classroom and each child experience the moment of silence together. When students are relaxed and focused, teachers become more effective communicators, helping Ohio’s children to absorb more information and increase test scores. Parents are asked to be involved in this daily moment of silence by helping their child understand the benefits of the moments of silence and reflect on what to think about.

Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 248. I am happy to take any questions from the committee.