



State Representative Justin Pizzulli

Sponsor Testimony - House Bill 525

House Criminal Justice Committee

June 25th, 2024

Chairwoman Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and esteemed colleagues of the Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for HB525.

This bipartisan bill is short and sweet – it aims to extend the same protections currently afforded to our teachers and bus drivers to other vital school staff members. Under current law, our cherished teacher aides, cafeteria staff, and other essential personnel are left without these protections.

This bill is inspired by the hardworking men and women of Ohio who wake up each morning, not for the money or the recognition, but because they genuinely care about our children. When I think of our school staff, I am reminded of women like my mother, who drives the school bus at the same school from which we both graduated.

One of my fondest school memories is lunchtime, when the cafeteria staff would greet us with kindness and care. Their warmth and the joy they brought to our school days, with simple gestures like offering an extra honey peanut butter sandwich, left a lasting impression on me.

Thank you, Representative Brennan, for allowing me to be a part of this effort. I appreciate his dedication to our children and the wonderful school staff who support them.

I humbly ask for your support for this common-sense legislation, which aims to further protect all our school staff. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify for HB525. We would be happy to take any questions.