

Representatives

Cindy Abrams
Willis E. Blackshear, Jr.
Juanita O. Brent
Sara P. Carruthers
Rodney Creech
Steve Demetriou
Thomas Hall
Adam C. Miller
Kevin D. Miller
Ismail Mohamed



Chairman
Haraz N. Ghanbari

Vice-Chairman
Phil Plummer

Ranking Member
Cecil Thomas

HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes | December 5th, 2023

Chairman Ghanbari called the committee to order at 11:00 a.m.

Chairman Ghanbari calls forward HB 230 for its 8th hearing. Chairman Ghanbari recognizes Professor Kevin Lorson for interested party testimony.

Kevin Lorson states he is providing interested testimony due to the amendment regarding to education. He states policy is needed to develop skills in health education and he wants to show his discontent with how the amendment will affect education. The amendment is repetitive and overbearing as there is already training for opiates. The chancellor has already instilled a module that requires an opiate training as well. Health education is already limited in Ohio and there is only one semester worth of health courses in college. Therefore, there is a great need to update health education and overall help kids develop healthy behaviors.

Representative Abrams states she reached out to ODE and higher education. She asks if the number one killer is fentanyl poisoning.

Kevin Lorson agrees.

Representative Abrams states she agrees there needs to be an overhaul of education as well and she is working with Representative White to work on this. However, this legislation is currently need until then for educating the population who is affected by fentanyl. She asks if his college population is a highly affected community.

Kevin Lorson agrees. He states that fentanyl is an opioid and therefore it is repetitive. Teachers do what is meaningful and relevant to children and therefore he believes that the language could be changed to be more impactful.

Representative Abrams states the amendment does say fentanyl and what we currently are teaching is not impactful in its current form.

Kevin Lorson states teachers are doing their best with health education; however, they only have 60 hours in one semester.

Representative Abrams states she believes teachers are doing their jobs however it takes all members of a community to educate about health. Currently, this amendment is needed in order to temporarily handle the education piece of health teachings.

Representative Brent asks what local control looks like in education.

Kevin Lorson states that learning outcomes and topics that are most relevant to their communities and populations.

Representative Brent asks if there is a part of the state that is not affected by fentanyl.

Kevin Lorson states all parts of the state are included.

Representative Brent asks if the issue includes all communities, then why would it not legislate it at a state level.

Kevin Lorson states it passed in 2016 with opiate prevention requirement. It has not been updated since 2016.

Representative Brent asks if it is not being taught at all.

Kevin Lorson states it is a requirement, but the secret is nobody follows it.

Representative Plummer states there is no oversight to make sure that the education is being taught. He asks if they are opposed to this minor change that is a temporary fix.

Kevin Lorson states there could be an update of the language to add fentanyl into the current opioid language. As it stands, there is too much in the amendment.

Representative Plummer states xylazine should be added as well.

Representative Carruthers states there should be more of an emphasis from teachers to students about the dangers. All education professionals are asking for more resources and time.

Kevin Lorson states they do teach not to trust any sort of possible items that could have drugs. It is situational recognition that applies across the board instead of a drug-by-drug basis.

Representative Carruthers asks why we are not using scare tactics.

Kevin Lorson states scare tactics does not work on kids and turns kids away from listening to these issues.

Representative Carruthers states when they have a friend die is a scare.

Kevin Lorson agrees.

Ranking Member Thomas states the issue seems to be that we need a better method to hold education accountable with their resources.

Kevin Lorson states more strict standards may not be a solution. However, we do not have a standard that guides learning.

Ranking Member Thomas asks if he is open to discussions moving forward to come up with methods to get outcomes that they are looking for.

Chairman Ghanbari directs the attention to the iPads to see the written testimony.

Chairman Ghanbari recognizes Representative Abrams for a motion.

Representative Abrams motions for a vote and to favorably report the bill from committee.

With a vote count of 10-1 House Bill 230 passes favorably from the committee.

Chairman Ghanbari calls forward HB 209 and recognizes Representative Creech for sponsor testimony.

Representative Creech states HB 209 is for the Daughters of the American Revolution that are a non-partisan and non-political entity that encourages patriotism. The funds from the license plate will go to the USDAR General Fund where the Ohio State Society will put the funds into the ownership and operation of the Christian Waldschmidt Homestead and Camp Denson Civil War Museum. There are also several other historical sites that are maintained by their organization.

Representative Brent asks what are the Camp Denison and trails that the Daughters of the American Revolution maintain.

Representative Creech states he cannot answer but we will discuss more in the next hearing.

Chairman Ghanbari states as a matter of record the roll will be kept open for HB230 until 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Ghanbari calls forward HCR 9 for it's first hearing and recognizes Representative Willis for sponsor testimony.

Representative Willis states the ROAR resolution is designed to call for a readiness in Ohio and America. The Department of Defense has engaged in practices that have eroded the core values and principles of serving over the past years, he believes that with attention it can be corrected.

Representative Kevin Miller asks if there are similar resolutions in other states.

Representative Willis states there are many calls such as this across the country.

Chairman Ghanbari calls forward HB 302 and recognizes Representative Rogers and Representative Swearingen.

Representative Rogers states Jesup Scott High School has produced many great Ohioans. This license plate will recognize the great work this school does for their community. The funds and resources will be a great addition for their students and teachers.

Representative Swearingen states he was not an alumnus of Jesup Scott High School however he rallies with their great community and would like to recognize the great work that they have done.

Representative Blackshear Jr. asks what the principal activity fund has been used for in previous years.

Representative Rogers states the fund has been used to fund trips such as a trip to the Statehouse. When he met Representative Jack Ford and his aide he was inspired to aim his path in a similar direction.

Representative Swearingen states Representative Jack Ford was also his professor in college.

Chairman Ghanbari adjourns committee at 11:43 a.m.

Chairman Ghanbari

Ranking Member Thomas