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From the desk of:
Riordan McClain
State Representative

Chair Mathews, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Public Health Policy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide Sponsor Testimony for H.B. 602.

As I am sure many of you know, I am a big believer in educational choice for families. The opportunities for education today are vast and we here in this body should continue to allow for paths that create the best outcomes for children on their educational journey.

As Representative Fowler-Arthur mentioned, learning pods have been increasingly popular among parents for education. 2020 and the mass school shutdowns forced parents to consider alternative learning options for their children, some parents had been doing so for a long time. Misapplying daycare regulations on these learning pods have led to unfortunate events like mentioned before, and we believe we can serve Ohioans better by updating and clarifying what is a learning pod.

When I heard that a learning pod was being threatened to be shut down due to an application of existing law, I knew we had to address it.

H.B. 602 simply defines what a learning pod is and allows them to be utilized across this great state. We believe that a great education that truly works on the individual level of the child will allow them to exceed in life. Customization of what the education is, and the education space can make the difference between success and struggle for any child.

Thank you for again for allowing us to testify and we would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Riordan McClain".