



*The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.*

**Senate Education Committee**  
**Senate Bill 320 Opponent Testimony**  
**Scott DiMauro – President, Ohio Education Association**  
**June 24, 2020**

Good afternoon, Chair Lehner and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Scott DiMauro. I am in my 29th year in education, which includes 16 years in the classroom as a high school social studies teacher. I currently serve as President of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). On behalf of the OEA's 122,000 members, thank you for this opportunity to share OEA's concerns about Senate Bill 320.

OEA's top priority remains the health and safety of our students, members, and the communities we serve. OEA believes that any decision on re-opening schools next year must be driven by guidance from public health officials. While OEA supports local control, we also support the authority of the Governor and public health officials to make decisions that are data-driven and scientifically-based to keep our students and educators safe.

OEA appreciates the continued work by the Ohio Department of Education and other stakeholders on how to best create a state-level tool to inform local conversations about plans for next school year. OEA believes that any local plan must include input from teachers and education support professionals through local collective bargaining agreements. In short, we expect to have a seat at the table.

Administrators, educators, and other stakeholders should be afforded the flexibility to develop collaboratively a plan that meets the needs of their students and communities. What that looks like can and should vary from district to district. However, meeting health requirements laid out by the Ohio Department of Health should be a minimum expectation of parents, students and staff aimed at protecting their health.

The coming school year is unlikely to look like anything that has preceded it. Schools will and should reopen when public health standards can be met. Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony. I would be happy to address your questions.

