



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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

May 19, 2023

The Honorable Jason Stephens
77 S. High St., 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Speaker Stephens:

On behalf of the 120,000 members of the Ohio Education Association, this letter is to express support for House Bill 117. This bill would repeal mandatory student retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee while maintaining focus on identifying struggling readers and providing necessary interventions. OEA urges passage of this bill.

House Bill 117 would allow educators and parents to make decisions regarding student retention. Educators firmly believe that it is wrong to use the results of a standardized test to make high-stakes decisions about students. Teachers have access to more information and have a deeper understanding of a student's classwork and abilities. Educators and parents should be empowered to make these decisions.

Additionally, the amount of testing that students endure is a primary concern of our members. HB 117 reduces testing by eliminating the fall administration of the Third grade ELA test. This returns some measure of time for teaching and learning in the classroom.

HB 117 has strong bipartisan support and was unanimously reported by the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee. OEA urges favorable consideration by the House. Given the importance of this issue to the educators, parents, and students of Ohio this will be a scorecard vote for OEA.

Sincerely,

Scott DiMauro
OEA President

CC: Members of the Ohio House of Representatives

