

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 316 – MID-BIENNIUM REVIEW  
MAY 17, 2012

OHIO HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
REPRESENTATIVE STEBELTON, CHAIR

Chair Stebelton, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Luckie and members of the Ohio House Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about Senate Bill 316 as passed by the Senate.

I am C. Todd Jones, Chair of the State Board of Education's Legislative and Budget Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I am here representing the State Board of Education to share concerns expressed by the Board at its meeting this week concerning the development of a new Local Report Card as it relates to Ohio's efforts to obtain a waiver for flexibility from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

The Senate's version of Senate Bill 316 recommends the creation of a task force to make legislative recommendations for a new A to F ratings and local report card system by October of this year with the goal of having the new system in place for the 2012-2013 school year. This task force would be chaired by the Governor's Director of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education and would include the State Superintendent, the President of the State Board of Education, and four legislative members picked by party leaders in both chambers.

I understand that a substitute bill was approved by the House Education Committee last night that would remove this task force. Also, the State Superintendent shared with you that absent a high-quality and clearly defined accountability system in Ohio's waiver request, the best that Ohio can secure will be conditional approval of its waiver for one year. This conditional approval would mean that Ohio could proceed with all other aspects of the waiver as though it was fully approved. The conditional approval would be subject to progress monitoring of the state's ability to complete work on the accountability system within a submitted timeline.

The State Board of Education supports the State Superintendent and his efforts to obtain at least conditional approval of a waiver for flexibility from ESEA for the upcoming school year, and ultimately a new accountability system to be issued in August 2013. Further, we oppose any provision that might undermine his ability to achieve this flexibility from ESEA and implement a new A to F accountability system. The State Board of Education understands the importance of this waiver. Without it, 90% of Ohio's schools will be deemed as failing next school year and be subject to federal consequences and sanctions. This would be a costly distraction and will only get worse with time.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you today. At this time I am happy to entertain any questions you may have.