



Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

Office of the Superintendent
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September 19, 2016

Rep. Amanda Price, Chair
House Education Committee
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Price,

I am writing in support of HB 5796 which would repeal section 380.1766 of the Revised School Code. As superintendent of Ovid-Elsie Area Schools this presented a very unique problem for our District this past summer. This section of the revised school code does not seem to be in the best interest of students and is not in the best interest of the local school districts or potentially, an intermediate school district.

While facing declining enrollment and challenging financial times, Ovid-Elsie Area Schools offered an early retirement incentive to reduce payroll expenditures. Two of the participants in the program were veteran special education teachers. Upon their retirement, we were informed that we would be obligated to offer a displaced Clinton County RESA teacher a position in our District, thus nullifying any cost savings that the District sought by offering an early retirement incentive. Additionally, Ovid-Elsie potentially could have received the least effective teacher(s) based on CCRESA evaluation system. Needless-to-say, 380.1766 of the Revised School Code not only would have forced a displaced, higher wage employee on Ovid-Elsie Area Schools, but also a (less) effective teacher. It is understandable how this is not beneficial for a district trying to remain fiscally responsible and academic integrity.

While the displaced teachers did find employment elsewhere, Ovid-Elsie could have been in a situation that would have potentially cost the District tens of thousands of dollars. I strongly feel that HB 5796 would help districts maintain local control and find the most highly qualified teachers, who fit the specific needs of the individual district.

Educationally yours,

Dr. Ryan L. Cunningham, Superintendent
Ovid-Elsie Area Schools