



March 15, 2018

Chairman Andrew Brenner
77 S. High St., 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Brenner,

We are writing today to follow-up on your inquiry regarding Youngstown City School District's Academic Distress Commission (ADC) and its Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Following the passage of House Bill 70, which by all measure was an unconventional education model that permitted an appointed CEO to manage every aspect of the local school district. The legislation all but dissolved the local school district and nullified the existing elected school board. It is unclear if the goals championed by this unconventional education model are being realized. The rushed legislation that instituted the "Youngstown Plan" under HB 70 in the last biennium, now causes a need for a deeper investigation by the Legislators who thrust this model onto our community. We need to determine if this unconventional model is working or benefitting students, improving the quality of education being provided in the district and to that end, what needs to change to ensure that students in Youngstown City Schools are provided a fair and equitable education.

In a prior conversation, we discussed the possibility of having an Education Committee Hearing in Youngstown regarding HB 70 and we understand you may visit Youngstown soon. Since we last spoke, three Academic Distress Commission members have resigned, millions of dollars have been spent to move our district out of academic watch, and the CEO may take another position out of state. In light of these circumstances, the Ohio Department of Education has issued a bureaucratic audit to examine the progress of the ADC. Although ODE will be reviewing the situation, their movements are reactionary when proactive measures of oversight should have been put forth from the beginning.

The Mahoning Valley legislators applaud your efforts in the Education & Career Readiness Committee and would welcome such a committee hearing to examine the merits of HB 70 and to determine the appropriate way to educate our children in the Youngstown City Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Bocchieri".

JOHN BOCCIERI
State Representative
59th House District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Lepore-Hagan".

MICHELE LEPORE-HAGAN
State Representative
58th House District