



EDUCATION
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 11/6/17

Name: Jason Wood

Address: 1101 Buckeye Drive
Coldwater, OH 45828

Telephone: 419-763-8044

Organization Representing: Coldwater Exempted Village Schools

Testifying on Bill Number: S.B. 216

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: None



Coldwater Exempted Village Schools

Administrative Office: 419-678-2611
High School Office: 419-678-4821

310 North Second Street
Coldwater, Ohio 45828-1242
Fax: 419-678-3100

Middle School: 419-678-3331
Elementary School: 419-678-2613

November 6, 2017

Dear Chair Lehner, Vice-Chair Huffman and members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee,

My name is Jason Wood and I am the superintendent of Coldwater Exempted Village Schools located in Mercer County. I am a proponent of Senate Bill 216 and I am here today to give you an example of how this bill will help my students, staff and district.

We have a strong Advanced Placement program where our students at our High School receive gifted service for taking those courses at our High School. This has been a practice that has taken place in our school district for years and our parents like the fact that our students are challenged on our campus to perform academically. Up until this year, our Advanced Placement teachers were counted as servicing our gifted students. Now if those staff members do not get the thirty hours required to service their gifted students we would have to provide non-service letters to our parents. With that being said, we would have to tell parents that their children could be serviced by attending a College Credit Plus institution.

So you have an understanding, College Credit Plus staff members are exempt from the thirty hours of training. Therefore, if our staff members do not get the thirty hours of gifted professional development, we can no longer count those students as receiving service like we have in the past. Therefore, it would lower our number of students served and promote College Credit Plus in our district over Advanced Placement making it an uneven playing field and limiting choices for our families.

We have chosen to work toward our staff members getting their thirty hours of professional development training in gifted to meet the criteria and count as service again. This will cost our district money and time. Our teachers could and will be out of the classroom and a substitute will be placed in that classroom. Therefore, our students are not getting the best instruction possible those days. I say that because who knows our students better than those who serve them on a daily basis.

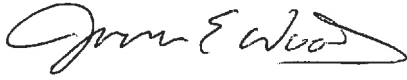
This is one example of why I am a proponent of Senate Bill 216. Senate Bill 216 allows our local board of education, administration and staff to identify our areas of deficiency and plan accordingly. Let us address those needs instead of being told we must provide professional development in a specific designated area. Our staff has been trained in differentiated instruction, formative instructional practices along with content specific training. Senate Bill 216 allows our local board of education, who are elected officials, to have local control back and remove some of the mandates that do not help us better serve our students.

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Thank you Chair Lehner, Vice-Chair Huffman and members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee for your attention and time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason E. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason Wood, Superintendent of Coldwater Exempted Village Schools