

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street
10th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 644-6037
(800) 282-0253
(614) 719-0000 (Fax)
Rep35@ohiohouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov

Civil Justice
Criminal Justice
Education and Career Readiness

Tavia Galonski
State Representative

October 24, 2018

Dear Speaker Smith,

I write to respectfully seek your assistance and guidance in the swift passage of House Bill 630, legislation to extend alternative pathways for the reported 32-percent of high school seniors who are at risk of not graduating this school year.

As you know, many parents, teachers and students have been frustrated with what they feel are constantly shifting standards and requirements from the state. I know you share these concerns, and others about the over-testing of our students.

Because achievement, progress and career-readiness cannot be determined through testing alone, it stands to reason that graduation then too cannot be based only on a broken system of over-testing.

As the State School Board and many in the legislature, under your leadership, move to bring Ohio standards in line with modern day needs and workforce demands, I ask for your support for House Bill 630 to meet Ohio seniors where they are in 2019 and 2020 by ensuring these career-ready students are not being held back by an outdated system.

As calls, letters and emails from concerned families in support of alternative pathways continue to flood legislative offices, I believe House Bill 630 offers the legislature a bipartisan opportunity to implement a transitional graduation strategy, while we show students and parents that we share their concerns and are working together to bring about lasting reforms in the 133rd General Assembly.

I believe House Bill 630 would be instrumental in providing alternative pathways for career-ready high school students until the legislature can fully engage the incoming administration on long lasting educational reforms that truly prepare Ohio's children for a lifetime of success. I respectfully ask to work with your office, the education chairman and our Senate counterparts to make House Bill 630 a priority in the final weeks of the 132nd General Assembly.

Sincerely,



Tavia Galonski

Cc: Fred Strahorn, Andrew Brenner, Teresa Fedor, Larry Obhoff, Peggy Lehner, Vernon Sykes