

Ohio Federation of Teachers Legislative Committee
(Submitted by Toledo Federation of Teachers, Local 250, assigned to Legislative Committee)

Restore House BILL 70 to its Original Intent

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3 WHEREAS, public schools have been the hallmark of the American education system and the foundation
4 of the nation’s democracy; and

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6 WHEREAS, Ohio’s schools have traditionally been governed by an elected Board of Education whose
7 members have been chosen by their fellow community members to make sound decisions about
8 educating their community’s children and to determine the most effective use of local tax dollars in
9 pursuit of that goal; and

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11 WHEREAS, employees of local Boards of Education have the right to collectively bargain for the terms
12 and conditions of their employment and have those terms and conditions of employment reduced to
13 writing in the form of a collective bargaining agreement which binds the employees and local Board of
14 Education; and

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16 WHEREAS, these collective bargaining agreements provide the framework and structure within which all
17 parties are allowed to educate children; and

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19 WHEREAS, HB70 mandates substantial and significant changes to the very structure under which
20 affected Ohio schools are operated; and

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22 WHEREAS, HB70 allows the voiding and unenforceability mutually agreed upon in existing collective
23 bargaining agreements; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly passed HB 70 without any serious input from the affected and
26 potentially Board(s) of Education, their employees, or members of the communities; and

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28 WHEREAS, this bill was adopted by Columbus-based legislators with little or no connection to the
29 affected and potentially affected community and without any genuine effort to engage those affected by
30 HB70.

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32 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the elected members of the Ohio Federation of Teachers, on
33 behalf of the children and community we serve, do object and protest to the manner in which this
34 legislation was passed and question how school district reforms and improvements can be achieved
35 without involving and engaging the elected Board of Education and the affected community members;
36 and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, as the manager of the
39 academic distress commission process, take appropriate steps to engage the elected Board of Education
40 and community in the school improvement process prior to appointment of the new CEO; and

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in any event in which a CEO is appointed that he or she recognize and
43 give full legal effect to any applicable collective bargaining agreement entered into before any such time
44 as a CEO is appointed; and

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46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we demand that members of the Ohio General Assembly, the State
47 Board of Education, and Governor John R. Kasich to seek amendments to House Bill 70 and the

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48 academic distress commission procedures that will preserve and enhance democracy and local control;
49 and

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51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such amendments should embrace the original intent of House Bill 70 to
52 foster community engagement and collaboration and to create community learning centers to better
53 serve any affected school's children and families; and

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55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that until any such amendments are adopted, we the elected members of the
56 Ohio Federation of Teachers do hereby condemn House Bill 70 in its current form; and

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58 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Ohio Federation of Teachers hereby adopts this resolution and directs
59 the Ohio Federation of Teachers Recording Secretary to reflect this action in the meeting minutes and
60 that copies be distributed to the Governor, members of the Ohio General Assembly, the State Board of
61 Education and State Superintendent of Public Instruction.