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From: Hilary Lewis <lewis.hilary@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2026 11:20 AM
To: House Education Committee
Cc: Christopher Blazejewski; Rep. Kislak, Rebecca M.
Subject: Oppose H7414-Premature End to State Intervention

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Hi-

As a constituent of Rebecca's and the leader of Vartan's PTO (in Chris's ward) I want to share my STRONG opposition to this rush to return to local control of PPSD.

I have been a PPSD parent since 2021, and an educator since 2001, working in education reform nationally. I've seen many state takeovers billed as the panacea for persistent problems in a school district- and they're not.

I've also seen many dysfunctional school boards try to fix things in a school district- and that usually doesn't work.

Neither of these things is a silver bullet for a system that is too big, too focused on quantitative metrics for what is fundamentally human work, and has design flaws top to bottom- let alone execution challenges.

But...here we are- in 2026 with basically 18 months left on the clock to a return to local control of PPSD that we're trying to rush to happen in 3 months.

WHY EVER WOULD WE RUSH THIS? This took so much work, pain, etc., to make this governance switch back in 2019; the return process needs to happen once in our lifetimes and should be thoughtful, slow, planned, and paced out. Instead, for a really unclear reason, there is momentum from political leaders to make it happen right now.

This decision appears to prioritize the political interests of elected officials over those of the people who run the schools, including current administrators, students, and staff in those buildings. There is no clear plan for what the mechanics of this transition will look like, nor a clear leader to take over. The school board has some promise, but remains relatively high in backroom political drama and does not yet inspire my confidence in their ability to run these schools well.

If this happens on July 1, the chaos that will ensue over the summer in transitioning people, systems, etc in preparation for the start of school will be massive.

Stick with the plan and the original timeline- otherwise, for what?

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