

# Alliance *News Flash*

August 28, 2014

ALLIANCE for High Quality Education

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## *Business, Education Communities on the Attack*

### **H. B. 597 – a Heated Debate**

The carefully orchestrated hearings on H. B. 597 (moved to a stacked Rules and Reference Committee rather than the standing Education Committee) have encountered some major obstacles during the last two days of opponent and interested party testimony.

After a day of outstanding testimony from representatives of the K-12 education community on Tuesday – including excellent remarks from representatives of Alliance member districts – spokespersons from Ohio’s business community chimed in Wednesday with ringing endorsements of the standards that constitute the Common Core.

Like the educators on Tuesday, representatives of Ohio’s major city chambers of commerce and the Ohio Chamber, underscored the need for high educational standards to prepare Ohio’s workforce to fill the more demanding jobs of today and the even more demanding jobs of tomorrow. They ridiculed H. B.

597’s call for eliminating the Common Core standards after this year, adopting the old, less rigorous Massachusetts standards for two years, then adopting new, made-in-Ohio standards for academic year 2017-18. They pointed out the “massive waste of resources” and instability that would result from such a plan, and wondered why Ohio would want to reject “...a set of standards that have been benchmarked with the best of the best.”

In all, Tuesday and Wednesday were good days for those who want to retain the Common Core standards, and disconcerting ones for the bill’s proponents. Hearing the well crafted, on target testimony from dozens of highly qualified educators should have been unsettling enough, but to experience such unanimous rejection from the business community, which traditionally supplies the majority Republican caucus a disproportionate share of its campaign funds, must have sent an even more unwelcome message.

The next hearing is scheduled for Thursday, September 4th at 10:00 a.m. at the Statehouse. We expect consideration of amendments and a possible vote. (Committee members have probably heard enough testimony already, especially that of Tuesday and Wednesday.) Most of the members are running for reelection and will want to concentrate on their campaigns over the next two months. The Speaker has already announced that the floor vote – assuming passage out of committee – will not be scheduled until after the election.

We would be interested in any feedback you hear from your legislators as a result of this debate.



### **REGIONAL MEETINGS PLANNED FOR EARLY OCTOBER**

Given the high profile discussions on H. B. 597, the many changes made in H. B. 487 and ongoing concerns we would like to address in next year's budget deliberations, the Executive Committee has asked that regional meetings of the members be held in early October; the first week, if possible.

Look for further information as soon as dates and places have been determined.



### **CALENDAR**

**Wednesday,  
September 9th**      **Legislative / System  
Improvements  
Committee**  
10:00 a.m., BASA

**Wednesday,  
September 24th**      **Executive Committee**  
9:30 a.m., BASA  
Conference Room



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