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I write in strong opposition to HB 5551. It is a shocking attempt at bringing the worst parts of No Child Left Behind back to life at the state level just as the Every Student Succeeds Act removed them. This bill will:

- Incredible government overreach,
- Removes the cap on the amount of schools,
- Placing the Ed Dept above the law ("waiv[ing]" laws??),
- State decides the Union and Parent representation on Turnaround committee - rather than the district (loss of local control),
- Allows the Ed Dept to hand over schools to charter organizations,
- Merit Pay and the guaranteed funding,
- Forces all teachers and admins at a takeover school to reapply for their job and/or be transferred out,
- Explicitly expands involvement from nonprofit and for-profit orgs in teacher/admin "leadership and advancement opportunities",
- A nuclear option to take "any action", close the school, give it to a charter org, all things that we just got rid of at the federal level and don't need back,
- Withholding funds to a local district if they don't comply with the law
- Commissioner "may at any time" put a school on probation based on test scores, and close a school based on test scores.

Incredible...and disappointing. Please don't pass this bill, not one piece of it, not one word.

Thank you,  
Jason