



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

201 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7715 * (850) 205-6820 * www.flaccb.org

House Education Committee Meeting

December 3, 2015

Remarks Prepared by James Herzog, FCCB Associate Director for Education

Thank you Madam Chair and committee members! After speaking recently with you, Chair O'Toole, I decided to take on some "homework" of my own by preparing these brief remarks in support of House Bill 7011.

It is good to be here today on behalf of our 235 Catholic schools. At present, our schools serve 191 students who benefit from PLSAs. House Bill 7011 will help our schools continue to serve these students and reach out to more families and schoolchildren going forward.

We especially appreciate the provision to include transition services by job coaches as an authorized use of funds (*see line 736*). Some special needs students will need until age 22, the full time available for most services under this program, to complete high school. This provision will help these students to continue their studies while they also build confidence and learn the skills needed to become workforce ready. This will in turn bolster the ties between schools and local businesses providing part-time opportunities for students. We ask for your yes vote to allow more parents to call the shots for each child's unique, customizable academic and career journey. Thank you Madam Chair and committee members!