

Chairman Blessing, Vice chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee. My name is Eric Hainline and I appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony today in opposition to House Bill 512.

As an Ohioan I greatly appreciate the freedom that we have to home educate our children if we prefer. There are many reasons as to why we made the decision to home school. Religious freedom is the most important. We aren't exactly living in the days of Ozzie and Harriet or Leave it to Beaver anymore. Security and safety was another factor. My local school district was one of the last ones to provide locked doors during school hours to keep people out that don't belong on school grounds. It wasn't until after the tragedy in Parkland that they decided to ensure the doors will be secured. I have addressed the problem with a member of the local school board who was unable to be here today. My daughter, who is here with me completed two years at our local public school and it was a place where a parent could perceive that test taking (OAA's) and ensuring levies were passed, super ceded the individual learning needs of the students. Simple things like recess were cut away so they could have more class room time and when I visited for lunch, it seemed like we were in a prison, that's not even in reference to the food quality. Kids were barely able to talk or simply laugh with one another. Our local school district claimed to be a school of excellence but fails to climb out of the bottom when it comes to results and grading that is made public by the department of education.

One of the key points to HB512 is the crib to career path that the state wants to set our children on. If our kids are supposed to be on a career path as early as k-5, how will they be able to focus if they can barely make time to get fresh air. I do appreciate the testimony from directors of Career Centers last week as it seems they are willing to help with the career path of students. I know some hard working ones that are trying to juggle high school with training in dental assisting. I can't imagine the workload they put on themselves to accomplish this but they are doing a wonderful job. However not every child will have the same work ethic and will be able to handle what is expected of them. I don't know how children in elementary, middle school, and high school can predict what they will want to do in life when there are college students who still change majors and degree programs.

As far as protection for home education in HB512, there is a lot of stress over who or what to believe when we are told it won't be affected but language for that promise can't be found amongst the 2,000 plus pages of this bill. In November we will be electing a Governor in a state that is neither Red or Blue and we all know that Ohio will be treated like it has a referendum on our current President. The results can swing the status of Home Education DRASTICALLY! We recently heard or saw in the state of California (a state I was raised in) that the Governor there, Mr. Jerry Brown, has recently declared home schooling to be a form of child abuse. I would assure him that it is not the case but I'm not convinced he would listen. Allowing the Governor of Ohio, whomever it may be, to hire an unelected official to make crucial educational decisions that can affect thousands of families is a dangerous precedent and needs to be stopped. Our children aren't formed from the same cookie cutter. They all learn in unique different ways and those rights need to be protected. My wife and I serve a God who has blessed us with several children and he has entrusted us to guide them, that guidance shouldn't be legislated by a bureaucrat.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify. It has been a pleasure