

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony. I am President and Legislative Liaison for Elida Local Schools. I am a retired Quality Manager from General Dynamics and I am active in the community volunteering on a committee to both keep Jobs in our region and to also bring more work into our area. I am opposed to House Bill 512.

My thoughts are based on things I find other states are doing to improve their educational systems, along with conversation I have had in the past with Faith Cummings, our retired curriculum director.

I would like to place this bill on hold until Representative Cupp's task force on education and poverty is complete. What I read is that education improves by having a long-term plan that is followed consistently for 10+ years. My conversations with Faith when she was curriculum director indicated that she was frustrated every time we had a Governor change. Educational philosophy and requirements were modified enough to throw out what we had learned from the past system. Here, think that China, Japan, South Korea and Finland all are consistent over time with their educational goals and all are ahead of the USA. If we look at the USA, states like Massachusetts, their educational plans are consistent over decades. Again, from the data I sent Representative Cupp, Ohio is in the middle of the USA rankings. In my opinion, if we want to improve, consistent, long term plans need to be in place and followed.

I don't understand how HB 512 will provide long term consistency and direction. I am concerned that education will be subject to each Governor's thoughts. I think we need years to not only have the state board of education analyze results, but teachers and school systems need consistency to improve each district's educational plans.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this bill.

Respectfully,
Patrick Schymanski
President & Legislative Liaison
Elida Local Schools