

Committee, my name is Tony Zapf and I appreciate the opportunity to offer (written) testimony today in opposition to HB 512, and request that it be entered into record.

After reading, and digesting this 2,430 page bill (just a mere twenty-two days ago, as of this opposition hearing), watching the press conference, and sitting in on a Facebook live with Representative Jim Hoops. My concerns and questions are as follows. The proposed bill would strip the State Board of Education of 80% of its current duties. It would only deal with misconduct allegations and licensure. Currently the accountable State Board of Education is made up of people who are elected by the people, a voice for parents and educators across the state of Ohio. Power would be shifted to the Department of Learning and Achievement. If this proposed bill was to come to fruition the Department of Learning and Achievement would be made up of unelected members, a governor appointed cabinet, and a governor appointed director. HB 512 claims to allow for mainstreamed collaboration with consistency and coherency throughout the process. The sponsors and co-sponsors claim the bill affords accountability to the public, as all final decision-making rests with the current Governor, who is publicly elected. Collaboration with and accountability to whom?

The bill touts that this is because the governor is publicly elected, while in the same token taking away the right of the public to have an impact on future educational policy decisions. While the change is being labeled as "structural only" the absolute intent is to structure all educational

child's education, leaving no accountability for continuity or consistency. Educational goals, policies, regulations, and requirements may change drastically with a new governor. Leaving room for instability in a student's education when a new governor is elected and leaving the possibility wide open for unstable educational policy.

What assurances are you able to offer to home educators concerning current or future administrations? With a publicly unaccountable mega bureaucracy, what are our options when a governor or cabinet member is personally against home education? The current members of the DLA would hold sole power to interpret and manipulate homeschooling codes and minimum standards, thereby putting home educators at risk for being displaced or manipulated based on a political agenda.

The sponsors/ co-sponsors of the bill state the need to align the educational system with current and future workforce needs. If there is to be no policy change, only structural, how is the alignment to be achieved? House Bill 512 claims it will have no effect on educational policy, yet the verbiage is contradictory. Throughout the bill, the following terms are used repeatedly regarding the Department of Learning and Achievement: Establish rules, Adopt standards, Prescribe requirements, Govern, and Program approval.

HB 512 was not assigned to the House Education Committee. The bill was assigned to the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee. When asked how the progress of the bill would be

This bill claims to align educational goals. Using tag lines such as 'crib to career' and 'birth to work.' When did it become the responsibility of the governor and government to support and guide our children? As a parent am I to align to a bureaucrat agenda for the rearing of my child into adulthood?

To conclude it sounds much more that the Workforce Transformation Board wants to take over my child and our children to support and fill positions for a future workforce. And very much less like supporting or improving upon the educational system as it is now.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."