

Amy L Houston
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House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee
Testimony in Opposition of House Bill 512

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

It is of great concern to me that a portion of this bill focuses on the replacement of the currently ELECTED Board of Education with an APPOINTED body. The very founding principle of this country is that the values and opinions of the people are represented by people they ELECT to represent them. To have this body appointed is not in the best interest of the people.

As a homeschooler, I am concerned that the requirements we are asked to fulfill in order to homeschool, such as documenting our previous year's work through an assessment or testing, could dramatically change based on the opinions of the appointed body. And furthermore, that these requirements could change as frequently as when a new appointee is elected and he would like to change the members of the appointed body i.e with change of political party in an election cycle. This puts too much control of the state's education into the hands of one appointee.

Additionally, as a formerly certified teacher who worked in public schools, I would be concerned for the same reasons - that those in public schools will have to continually meet standards and requirements placed by a newly appointed body whose requirements could change drastically when new appointments are made by a political leader.

Furthermore, it disturbs me that Mr. Reineke, the bill's sponsor stated the bill " is about a lifetime of learning – crib to career – birth to work" To put an appointed body overseeing our kids from the time they are born is just ludicrous. It takes away the very freedoms we love.

Lastly, as this bill is well over 2,000 pages, I am concerned about the speed with which this is trying to be pushed through the legislature. I do not believe it has been enough time for everyone voting on this text to have thoroughly read and understand the bill in the short time since it was introduced.

I urge the Committee to vote NO on HB512 and to leave the oversight of education in the State of Ohio to an elected Board of Education.

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