

Dear, Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking member Clyde, and Honorable Members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee. My name is Anthony Zapf, and I appreciate the opportunity today to offer my written testimony in opposition of House Bill 512 and request that it be entered into official record (as written testimony only).

I oppose House Bill 512! It takes virtually all the power from the elected Board of Education and gives it to the proposed Department of Learning and Achievement, which would be appointed by the Governor. Why? What's wrong with the system that's in place now? Are they not doing their job well? The national graduation rate was 84.1% in 2015-2016. Graduation rates in Ohio were 83.5%, that's pretty close to the National Average. In the previous 2014-15 year Ohio rates were at 80.7%. So Ohio graduation rates have actually gone up, looks like things are going great!

I'm a Millennial, I never thought that I would get this involved in politics but with a slogan, crib to career-birth to work, that's a frightening idea. It's not the Government's job to raise our children. To have that kind of control of our children's future would be insane. Our children should not be used as pawns in any one's political agenda. This Bill opens the door for radical changes whenever a new Governor is elected.

I believe that the legislature can do much by statute to reform and improve education in Ohio without such a dramatic and drastic approach as House Bill 512. A transparent and deliberate process that allows time for ample public comment and consideration provides the kind of approach needed when considering policy changes. This would not happen under HB512 where unelected and appointed governor officials would have too much control over important decisions about my child's education.