

House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee
Opponent Testimony on House Bill 512
By Mrs. Eleanor McDonie
March 14, 2018

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, my name is Eleanor McDonie and I appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony today in opposition to HB 512.

I am adamantly against HB 512 as I feel it is extremely dangerous to allow something that kills public accountability to be written into law. The bill gives far too much power to an appointee of a governor. The power will no doubt shift like a pendulum between whoever is the governor/appointee at any given time. I do not see how either republican or democrat could possibly be comfortable with such a situation.

I feel this impacts public schoolers and homeschoolers alike. However, it is exceptionally personal as a homeschooler, because I greatly value personal choice in education. My children very much need a personalized education path as they have learning differences that need met. It is vital to our family that we remain fully in control of their precious future by being able to help them fully in the way we determine to be their best interest.

I am also greatly concerned that this bill removes the checks and balances of legislative versus executive. The governor and their appointee will suddenly have legislative powers! Further the wording about crib to career is very disturbing. Personal choice and freedom for a child to choose their own path is a fundamental American right.

If I lived locally to Columbus, I would have been present in person. However, I currently have a family member who is terminal and I live over 2 hours away. I do feel this is a very important issue for the education of all children in our state.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to testify before you today in written form.