

**House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee**  
**Opponent Testimony on House Bill 512**  
**By Shari Toth**  
**March 12, 2018**

Chairman Blessing, Vice-Chairman Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, my name is Shari Toth and I appreciate the opportunity to offer written testimony in opposition to HB 512.

My major concern with this bill is the transfer of all education policy making and regulatory authority from the State Board of Education to the unelected, unaccountable appointed director of the Department of Learning and Achievement. I am also concerned with combining the Ohio Department of Education, Department of Higher Education, and the Office of Workforce Transformation into one new agency. While the physical size of the new agency may not be huge, the scope of responsibilities and authority that the new director will have is MEGA!

Under current legislation, the Ohio Revised Code says my children can be excused from attendance and home-schooled. The specific rules for what is required in my home-school notification and the issuance of my excusal from school attendance are expressed in the Ohio Administrative Code. By transferring the authority of those rules to the Director of Learning and Achievement, the director will have the ability to make changes as he/she sees fit. This is frightening to me!

As a current home-schooling parent of two students, I believe that having a position that is appointed by a Governor that will change every 4 to 8 years, is detrimental to all education in Ohio. This position will become politically motivated to achieve the desires of the Governor and/or the political party instead of having input from Ohio residents and the various inputs of a board that consists of partially elected members.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit written testimony to you. I urge you to consider voting against advancing this bill!