



# Ohio Federation of Teachers AFT, AFL-CIO

*A Union of Professionals*

1251 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43205

Ohio House Health Committee

Opposition testimony to HB 90

Presented by Melissa Cropper, President

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Chair Merrin, Vice-Chair Manning, and Ranking Member Boyd, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am Melissa Cropper, President of the Ohio Federation of Teachers.

I am here today to testify in opposition to HB 90. As educators, we have a responsibility to give our students access to information and to teach them how to evaluate, analyze, synthesize, apply, and adapt, or in other words, how to think critically.

Over the past several years, Ohio has been writing standards in different content areas. And over the years, Ohio parents and teachers have been critical when they believed standards were written without their input. The Ohio Department of Education has been very intentional in bringing together groups of educators and stakeholders to help develop standards and to review them on a periodic basis.

One of our biggest concerns with HB 90 is that it gives JCARR unprecedented control over the standards. In addition, this bill mandates that all districts must teach these standards, eliminating local control, which Ohioans have repeatedly insisted is important to them. Furthermore, the bill limits who can actually be involved in helping to write the standards based solely upon an opinion an organization might be able to provide rather than upon the full range of expertise the partner might be able to bring to the table. Most concerning is that rather than giving students a full range of information so that they can evaluate, analyze, synthesize, apply, and think

critically, the intent of this bill is to limit information in the hopes that a political agenda can be achieved.

Ohio is the only state in the union that does not currently have health curriculum standards. Rather than pass this bill, we urge you to look comprehensively at having educators, parents, and other stakeholders in the field develop health standards for grades K-12. The Center for Disease Control has health standards from Kindergarten to high school that are age appropriate. These can be used as a baseline for stakeholders in Ohio for developing our own standards.

This concludes my testimony and I welcome any questions you may have.