



Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Slaby, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Education and Career Readiness Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony on the Ohio House voucher bill, which is a companion to Senate Bill 85. My name is Jeanne Melvin, and I am a mother, grandmother, retired public school teacher, and taxpayer. I'm also president of *Public Education Partners*, a statewide advocacy group in support of public school districts and the children and families that they serve.

The Board of Public Education Partners is *strongly opposed* to HB 200, a school voucher expansion bill misleadingly called the "Opportunity Scholarship Program." As education advocates know, vouchers divert taxpayer dollars away from public schools - starving them of the critical funding needed for students to thrive - only to use these funds to subsidize private and parochial schools. Public money should NEVER be used to subsidize religious education.

Expanding Ohio's school voucher program with HB 200 will hurt traditional public schools, where over 90% of Ohio's children and families are involved.

<https://networkforpubliceducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Do-charter-schools-and-school-vouchers-hurt-public-schools%C6%92.pdf>

Expanding Ohio's school voucher program with HB 200 will not significantly raise student achievement. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/contributors/2017/04/13/school-voucher-programs-place-individual-interests-over-common-good/100297278/>

Expanding Ohio's school voucher program with HB 200 will promote racial and ethnic discrimination. <https://networkforpubliceducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Do-school-vouchers-help-kids-in-struggling-schools%C6%92.pdf>

Expanding Ohio's school voucher program with HB 200 will create more privatized school options with much less accountability. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/582f7c15f7e0ab3a3c7fb141/t/5873997da5790ac4948f2354/1483970942528/NCPE_TP_Accountability.pdf

Expanding Ohio's school voucher program with HB 200 will be too expensive for our state, which is already dealing with a major budget crisis. http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/04/statewide_school_vouchers_are.html

Ohio cannot afford to throw any more money on school choice experiments! I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this destructive bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Jeanne Melvin