



Dear House Education and Career Readiness Members,

On behalf of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the state's leading business advocate, I would like to express our opposition to House Bill 176.

HB 176 would effectively roll back Ohio's Learning Standards and replace them with outdated and abandoned standards from another state. Repealing the current standards threatens to harm the rigorousness of students' education, disrupt Ohio's schools and represent a massive waste of resources. Since 2001, Ohio has employed statewide learning standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts that have been continually improved and revised. The current standards emphasize problem-solving and critical thinking, putting Ohio's students on track to college and work readiness.

Some individuals claim that the Ohio Learning Standards remove local control from education and take lesson planning out of the hands of teachers—**this is not true**. The current standards already empower district administrators and teachers to determine the curriculum and the lesson plans that work best for their students. **Now is not the time to turn back the clock**—school districts and educators have already invested resources in Ohio's students. Ohio's students deserve a rigorous education to afford them the opportunity to be successful in life. Additionally, Ohio's employers deserve well-educated, skilled young adults to fill the careers of the future.

If you have any questions about the Ohio Chamber's opposition to HB 176 please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brandon Ogden

Brandon S. Ogden
Director, Ohio Small Business Council
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
230 E. Town St.
Columbus, OH 43215
614-629-0924
bogden@ohiochamber.com