

Good morning, Chairman Blessing, Vice Chairman Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee;

My name is David Sellers, I'm nineteen years old, and I am here to testify in opposition to HB512.

My basic concern is that this bill would serve to consolidate legislative and administrative power concerning education in Ohio. By doing so, it would further remove this power, and hence the accountability and oversight of it, from the citizens of the state of Ohio. We the people have entrusted the great privilege and responsibility of making such decisions to our accountable elected officials, because that is the way we want it. This bill, which would turn this power over to an unaccountable, unelected bureaucrat, is directly opposed to the idea of government of the people, by the people, and for the people - the core standard upon which this state and nation were founded.

Another concern I have - although this may be, and probably is, something which you have become accustomed to - is the fact that this piece of legislation runs just shy of twenty-five hundred pages and seventy-five thousand lines in length. For one thing, it seems unjust and unreasonable to place the burden of complying with, let alone comprehending, a piece of legislation of this magnitude, upon the citizens and institutions of this state. For another thing, there is no realistic way for you - or anyone else - to achieve more than a vague and general idea of what you are voting upon. And how can you conscientiously vote for something without even knowing what it is?

For these reasons, I would urge and request that you vote against this bill.