

Good morning chairman Blessing, vice-chair Reineke, ranking member Clyde, and members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

As the father of thirteen children in eight different grades I deeply appreciate the value of things running smoothly and efficiently. I can understand the hope that consolidation and centralization will improve the education system in Ohio. But what appears good on paper, often does not turn out well in real life.

I ask you to consider this one fact. When our Founders established this nation, the number one principle for success was that rule making and accountability must go hand-in-hand. This is why Article I Section I of the Constitution says that "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, ..."

In every branch, the federal government has turned this principle on its head. The unelected, unaccountable Supreme Court repeatedly amends the Constitution against the manifest will of the people, the executive branch circumvents the law making process by issuing executive orders and agreements, and the Congress tries to wash its hands of responsibility by attempting to transfer lawmaking power to the federal bureaucracies.

If we are happy with the way that the federal government is run -cutting through the red tape of accountability so they can 'get things done'- then I think it is very reasonable to support HB 512. In my opinion, the federal government is a mess, and we should not imitate their example. I think we Ohioans are better than that. That is why I oppose HB 512 and urge you to do the same.