

**House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee**  
**Opponent Testimony on House Bill 512**  
**By Carrie Ankney**  
**March 14, 2018**

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, my name is Carrie Ankney, and I thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in opposition to House Bill 512.

There are so many issues here, it's difficult to know where to begin...

First, why was an Education bill assigned to the Government Accountability and Oversight committee? I believe the Education and Career Readiness committee was the appropriate committee to hold these hearings. It seems odd, until you begin to examine the campaign contributions given to the members of the Government Accountability and Oversight committee by Mr. William Lager, the founder of ECOT. During last week's hearing it was suggested that this bill is ECOT's Revenge. Considering that, according to FollowTheMoney.org, members of the Government Accountability and Oversight committee have received a combined total of \$66,124 from Mr. Lager, I think the witness last week might be right.

Second, this bill undermines the constitutional separation of Educational Policy from the Governor's office. If passed, this bill will allow the Governor to use our children's futures as a bargaining chip. It also means that the focus, priorities, requirements, and minimum standards that govern ALL education are subject to change with every election which introduces uncertainty into the lives of tens of thousands of families across the State of Ohio. This will be detrimental not only to my family, but to the well-being of Ohio's children.

As a homeschooling family and an advocate for school choice I am concerned about the prospect of an unelected official with the ability and authority to decimate the rights of parents, but this bill effects much more than just education. Elections are the cornerstone of democracy. Eliminating locally elected officials limits the amount of "power" the constituents in Ohio wield, instead transferring that power to the governor's appointments. Personally, I don't want to hand over any more power to unelected governmental entities.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I strongly encourage you vote against favorably passing HB512.