

Greetings Chairman Blessing, Vice Chairman Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and Members of the House Government Oversight Committee:

I would like to go on the written record in opposition of House Bill 512. Ohio House Bill 512 would consolidate all education decisions, “birth to career” under one appointed official reporting directly to the Governor. The bill would remove more than 80% of the decision making duties from the elected State School Board members, and remove a voice regarding education further away from the local school districts and most importantly, we the voters. HB512 is an over 2,000 page long power grab; attempting to steal the right to make decisions regarding education away from students, parents, local communities, superintendents and school boards.

There will always be room for improvement in the education of our children. Public schools, vocational schools, and universities can work better together; to be sure that there are plenty of options for students after graduating, and to properly prepare them for these choices. Communication and coordination can be improved between the State School Board, local school boards and the executive branch. Creating a new bureaucracy, far removed and with no say from those most affected by such a decision (students and parents), is not the way to address these issues.

I thank you for your time, and ask that you oppose and vote against House Bill 512.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynne