

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

I am concerned that this bill has the potential, every 4 years, to change the leadership in the proposed Department of Learning and Achievement of which we, the people, have little to no voice. The potential is too great for this agency to become political, and that is the last thing our students need. I understand the need to help our students get the best education we can. I taught in two public schools. I know what it is like to have rules and regulations change what and how you teach. Constant change is not good for education, and it is one of many reasons we chose to homeschool.

Before any piece of legislation like this is passed, I would like to see more cooperation within the current education system in Ohio. Why not appoint members of the Ohio School Board to the governor's workforce and vice versa? Let's try to collaborate now in this current framework before we, once again, change the way we "do" education in Ohio.

Thank you for your time.