I am writing to you today in opposition of a provision in SB216 that prohibits school districts from requiring special training for gifted teachers.

My daughter is a fourth-grade student at Oakview Elementary School in Kettering. In addition to being what her teacher described as a "model student," Mekenzie is also attending gifted classes through KARE. She enjoys her regular schoolwork, but KARE is where she shines. The approach that her excellent KARE teachers take to education is an excellent fit for her creativity and curiosity.

Her KARE teachers are able to develop engaging lessons for her class because they learned best practices and innovative teaching methods through training they receive in gifted education. Unfortunately, a provision in SB216 hinders their ability to further educate themselves in methods used to instruct gifted students effectively. Such education is necessary because gifted students learn differently than their classmates. Speaking as a former gifted student myself, I know that gifted students can quickly become bored or disenchanted in a normal classroom setting. As a parent of a gifted child, I want my daughter and her classmates to have an educator who understands their needs and challenges and is prepared to assist them in achieving success in and out of the classroom.

I urge you to reconsider the provision in SB216 so that schools can guarantee that gifted students receive the best education possible from their devoted teachers.

Thank you for your time.