Submitted to: The Senate Education Committee

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Written testimony in opposition of SB121, relating to the adoption of health standards based on the existing National Health Education Standards

Hello Chair Lehner and Members of the Committee,

I oppose SB121. Firstly, there is no need for this bill. Current ORC 3313.60 requires local school districts to establish health education curriculum including but not limited to nutrition, drug abuse, venereal diseases, personal safety and healthy relationships.

This bill will remove public involvement by repealing the provision that requires both the House and Senate Education Committees to conduct at least one public hearing on standards, curriculum, or revisions prior to voting on the concurrent resolution. Parents are and will continue to be the most influential people in a child’s life and must maintain an active role in establishing health standards for their children.

Proponent testimony of SB121 presented no evidence that establishing these health standards would improve health outcomes. Bills pertaining to the health of Ohio children should not be introduced on assumptions but rather on evidence based research. According to the CDC NCHS data brief 2015-2016, 18.5% or some 13.5 million US children and adolescents are suffering from obesity, diabetes is the 8th leading cause of death, and other chronic health conditions are plaguing American children at alarming rates. This Senate Bill fails to address these most complex and pressing health issues of our children.

The cornerstone of good health is nutrition. Sadly, some children’s only meal is while in attendance at school. By simply increasing access to better nutrition in schools and decreasing exposure to chemical laden foods we can improve health outcomes of children. A great place to start would be addressing the school breakfast and lunches provided by Ohio schools. I have attached a copy of my children’s school breakfast and lunch menus for reference.

The public and legislative bodies are essential to the process and must remain involved in order to minimize the influence of special interest groups.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully encourage the committee to vote NO on SB121. Thank you for your consideration.

[http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/static/greenmenus/1565046673808/2019/2019/308062-Menu\_PES\_October\_2019\_new.pdf](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com_static_greenmenus_1565046673808_2019_2019_308062-2DMenu-5FPES-5FOctober-5F2019-5Fnew.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=kRQx1TXm_68pneFHvOZEGQ&r=GoVWbVpn8wK0dPeSKq5Ny5h9cW0MkNZ5bqFG7dSKfBI&m=XVf-tVazz_Kk5dwYuT_GbM7_324enM5TMkpICpY1NCw&s=kkeMOK74uKG4qfQgjLb7VsyliBFut07cSjes39W2KQw&e=)



