

Testimony of Amy Chapman

Opposition of Senate Bill 121

Education Committee

December 3, 2019

Madam Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to give my testimony today in opposition to Bill 121 regarding Health Standards. As the parent of an elementary school age child in Ohio, I oppose this bill. Most importantly, this bill removes the current joint resolution and would place the authority to change and adopt curriculum with the Ohio Board of Education. Within our Board of Education, there are only 11 members which are elected by the public. School districts should continue to decide and implement health standards as current law requires. Current law states that school districts establish health education curriculum including nutrition, drug abuse, healthy relationships, and personal safety. (Ohio Revised Code 3313.60)

What is health? I do not believe that health is a standard, nor do I believe that any of us have the same definition of what healthy is or how to obtain health. I also believe that individuals may achieve health in a variety of ways and through a combination of modalities. Will a pharmaceutical based model of care be the standard used as to what products are valid choices? Will some of the choices I make for myself and my family be taught as wrong or invalid?

Thank you again for the opportunity to voice my concerns regarding Bill 121. I believe it is vital to ensure that the current joint resolution is kept in place.