



Sara Gleason

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

My name is Sara Gleason. I am a resident and constituent of the great state of Ohio, a mother and military spouse, and **I am asking that you NOT endorse SB121.**

This legislation is concerning to me as it has the potential to set the groundwork for the involvement of special interests in the development of curriculum, standards, and future legislation related to education and health of our children. And, alarmingly it would remove public involvement (by way of public hearing) in the development of said curriculum, standards, and future legislation. This, on its own, is reason enough to say "no"; but SB121 is also entirely redundant. Current OH law (ORC 3313.60) is already in place to do the work that this bill would do.

Per OH law, *school districts* are the bodies responsible for the establishment of health standards and that's how it should remain. Local direction is always best for the establishment of health standards so that individual and community differences and involvement are adequately considered; the needs of each district are varied and complex. What's more, and perhaps more importantly, the state standards in other states have not been shown to actually improve health outcomes for children. As a military family we have lived and experienced the educational landscapes of 5 different states. None of these states could declare that nationalized health guidelines helped to curb negative health outcomes seen in their students and families.

I appreciate that Ohio's current codified guidelines are rooted in localities and therefore are more adaptive, more considerate of parental rights, and more protected against industry interests. I am concerned that national health standards diminish the personal and familial health choices of some families, painting anything outside of the allopathic or accepted models and modalities as *wrong*. Our family has been dealt the consequences of one-sized-fits-all health standards in service of the military and we treasure the preservation of a curriculum and standards that will be more representative and considerate of the communities for whom they are developed.

At the end of the day, SB121 asks us to consider the implementation of guidelines that would replace what is already established without actually improving it AND giving greater weight to special interests than those of Ohio families by removing local and parental input in the process. It is not representative. And I hope you'll seriously consider this as you decide *not* to put the weight of your endorsement behind such a bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony and for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sara Gleason