

Local Matters

PARTNERING for HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Ohio Senate Education Committee

Senator Peggy Lehner, Chair

Senator Andrew Brenner, Vice Chair

Senator Teresa Fedor, Ranking Member

Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 121

Regards creation of health education standards

Sarah Miller, Local Matters

December 8, 2020

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the committee:

Local Matters, a food education and access nonprofit in Central Ohio, would like to once again state our support for the passage of Senate Bill 121.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced how important it is for health education to be rooted in the most up-to-date information available. Some of the health issues that make someone at higher risk of a complicated and dangerous case of COVID-19 (such as diabetes and severe obesity) are often preventable. **Health education can be used as a preventative health measure and curb the rates of the underlying conditions our children experience.** For health education to successfully play this role, Ohio's schools and teachers need support and resources from the state – like robust health education standards.

Thank you for working to provide the resources and support that allow Ohio's students to thrive.

Testimony submitted by:

Sarah Miller, Communications & Advocacy Manager

Local Matters | 633 Parsons Avenue, Columbus, OH 43206

614-263-5662 | www.local-matters.org

smiller@local-matters.org

Local Matters is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Central Ohio working to build healthy communities through food education, access, and advocacy.