

Chairman Wilkin,

I am submitting testimony in favor of House Bill 298 to eliminate the practice of gubernatorial appointments on the Ohio State School Board.

*Ohio voters are disenfranchised when 42% of Board members are not directly accountable to the will of the voting public.

*Ohio voters are disenfranchised when given no direct opportunity to vet appointed School Board members.

*Vetting of School Board appointees is not a transparent process and subject to the influence of special interests and an entrenched bureaucracy.

*The 8 appointed members of the Ohio State School Board operate essentially as an unelected faction, calculated and designed to subvert the will of Ohio's voters.

*Notably, section 3313.02 of the Ohio Revised Code expressly states that all LOCAL Ohio school boards are elected bodies exclusively. Full term appointments are considered undemocratic.

*Ohio voters face the prospect of counterfeit representation on any given issue brought before the Ohio School Board when 8 unelected Board members can tip the scale against the Board's duly elected members.

That the practice of allowing Board appointments has been in existence for a generation is a corruption of representative governance. Please restore The Ohio State Board of Education to its original status as a wholly elected body.

Jim Cullen

Berea, Ohio