

Chair Wilkin, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the House Government Oversight Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 298, a bill to change the membership make-up of the State Board of Education. My name is Patrick Schymanski. I am VP and Legislative Liaison for Elida Local School system, a school of 2400 students located just west of Lima Ohio.

I believe in the power of elected school boards and their ability to represent school systems. In a similar fashion, I believe in a fully elected state school board. If you look at the history of Ohio education, when Ohio had representation of only elected state school board members, there was stability at the Superintendent of Education. More importantly, there was consistent education philosophy that resulted in slow, steady education growth of our students. Returning to a fully elected board will hopefully allow focus on consistent long-term growth, stability at the Superintendent position and renewed focus educational standards.

I know from my previous work experiences that change is tough and challenging but also, brings excitement and new thoughts. I urge you to take risks and support change. Please approve HB298.

Thank you again for this opportunity to express my opinion.

Respectfully,  
Patrick Schymanski  
Member of the Elida Local School Board