

Written Testimony of John Stover
President, Ohio Value Voters
Primary and Secondary Education Committee
Senate Bill 178
December 12, 2022

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking members of the Committee. My name is John Stover and I am the President of Ohio Value Voters. Our organization promotes the values of Faith, Life, Families and Religious Freedom. Since 2007, our purpose has been to educate, inform, and influence voters and elected officials in Ohio. We are independent of any political party, religious organization or political action committee. Ohio Value Voters is a registered 501(c)(4) organization.

Our organization is opposed to the passage of Senate Bill 178.

There is no arguing the fact that the leadership of the State Board of Education has failed in many areas. After three months, the President of the State Board failed to cast the deciding vote to oppose the Biden administration's proposed Title IX policies. The Title IX policies will place biological boys in girls' locker rooms, restrooms and showers. It will also permit biological boys to compete against girls in all sports. Board leadership has repeatedly proven to be dysfunctional and has gone a year without appointing a Superintendent.

Governor DeWine has been silent on the performance of the State Board of Education and has failed to support many educational and child protection bills over the past two years.

Senate Bill 178 was introduced and referred to the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee roughly eighteen months ago. Now, some legislators want to slam dunk this overhaul of education in Ohio without including adequate checks and balances before giving the Department of Education over to the Governor. The education of Ohio's children is of the utmost importance and it's critically important that Ohioans have the opportunity to thoroughly review the 2,200 pages of this bill.

Based upon the before mentioned statements, it is respectfully requested that the committee votes in opposition to this legislation. This bill should not be passed by the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee.