

Dear Madam Chairman and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my serious concerns regarding Sub. S.B. 178 as well as to urge you to oppose this detrimental bill.

Sub. Senate Bill 178 takes away elected representation on policies affecting all of Ohio's students and their families. The State Board of Education was amended into the Ohio Constitution in 1953. It is not conceivable that voters intended for this board to be stripped of almost all its authority and only left with disciplining teachers and territory transfers. The Governor already has a considerable role in who serves on the Board of Education, with the ability to appoint 8 of the 19 members. The State Board of Education provides a democratically elected forum to address the concerns that face our students, teachers, and school districts.

Another concern that must be considered are the Ohio students whose education is governed ONLY in the Ohio Administrative Code -home educated students and non-chartered private school students. It will be a huge disservice to these students and their families to put their fate in the hands of an unelected bureaucratic director that could change every 4 years with a new governor.

Lastly, if passed, this bill could harm our students by weakening the oversight that is currently provided by elected leaders with content expertise. The State Board of Education has the responsibility for approving Ohio's state content standards and the standards for professional educators.

Kind Regards,
Aubrey Whewell PhD, MPH
Ottawa Hills, Ohio 43606