

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: _____

Name: _____

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): _____

Specific Issue: _____

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

Will your testimony be written, spoken, or both? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 322
Misty Elek
State and Local Government Committee
September 21, 2021

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Representative Kelly, and Members of the State and Local Government Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Misty Elek. I am a parent to two school-aged children in Bay Village. I strongly oppose HB 322.

As a parent, I am tired of our teachers being disrespected and not trusted. As a child, I grew up understanding that my teachers were to be revered. This bill does nothing but threaten and intimidate our teachers with severe penalties without clear standards for violations. Teachers in America are not respected, which is made clear by a study conducted by the Varkey Foundation¹. This study evaluated the status of teachers in 35 countries around the world. This study found a direct correlation between the status of teachers and student outcomes in these countries. When teachers are respected, and their profession is revered to the same degree as a doctor, students perform better and a country's education outcomes are higher.

The Varkey Foundation's study found that China ranks first in the teacher index and the United States is ranked 16th out of 35 countries evaluated. If our children in the United States are going to compete on the international stage, and in a world where globalization² is the future of work, we have a lot of work to do. Quoting Sunny Varkey, founder of the Varkey Foundation, "this report proves that respecting teachers isn't only an important moral duty – it's essential for a country's educational outcomes." I urge the members of this committee to review this report and understand its importance as it relates to our teachers in Ohio, but as importantly, our students and their educational outcomes. This bill does nothing but further undermine the profession of our educators.

I take pride in being involved in my children's education. I oppose this bill because it prohibits collaboration among families, educators and school districts by limiting Local Control of communities over their own educational environment. This bill has already created disharmony and distrust among families, educators and school districts entrusted to shape their education environment.

As a parent in my community, I ask you to strongly consider my testimony opposing or supporting HB 322 and vote NO on this bill.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any additional questions or provide input as needed. You may reach me at misty.elek@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Misty Elek

¹ <https://www.varkeyfoundation.org/media/4867/gts-index-13-11-2018.pdf>

² https://educationusa.state.gov/sites/default/files/intl_ed_joint_statement.pdf