

Ohio Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee
December 3, 2022
Sub. S.B. 178

Chairman Brenner, Vice-Chairman Blessing, and Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in opposition to Substitute Senate Bill 178.

My name is Casey McCracken and I have been a home-educator for 9 years. I am a dedicated mother to 3 boys and the wife of a hard-working husband. Our family is very close and we homeschool because we want to enjoy all of the years that the Lord chooses to give us together. We also home-educate because we believe it's OUR God-given responsibility to raise our children up to love Jesus and love others. We do not turn this precious gift of educating our sons over to complete strangers at public schools or subject them to bureaucratic political agendas. We strive for consistency in education and we know it is our right to have the freedom to raise our sons how we see fit. This includes our right to vote for a State Board of Education representative.

I oppose Substitute Senate Bill 178 because my voice, as a parent and home-educator, would be silenced. This is UNFAIR and WRONG. Although the "voice" of parents is available to locally elected boards of education, this is only relevant for local public school district policy, but it has nothing to do with state policy. Home educated students', like my sons, and non-chartered non-public school students', like many of our friends, administrative rules currently rest solely with the State Board of Education. I homeschool my children to give them a consistent education that does not change with whatever the current political agenda is pushing. If this S.B.178 were to pass, homeschoolers and non-public schoolers would become subject to a NON-ELECTED, politically biased cabinet that would make new regulations with each new governor. This is NOT acceptable.

To conclude, Sub. S.B.178 takes away elected representation on policies that affect ALL of Ohio's students and their families. It is very easy for a private citizen to look up their State Board of Education representative and address a policy concern with them. We must keep this line of communication open. Ohio has students whose education is governed ONLY in the Ohio Administrative Code and it would be a huge disservice to each of these hardworking students and their dedicated families to put their fate in the hands of an unelected state official that could change every 4 years with a new governor. Please hear us when we say, OPPOSE SUB. S.B. 178!

Thank you for your time,
Casey McCracken

