

Ohio Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee
December 7, 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 Melissa Lallo. I am a resident of Champaign county and have homeschooled my children for the last 22 years. I have graduated four children and two are still be instructed at home. Our oldest is an attorney, the second is graduating this spring with a Doctor of Physical Therapy, the third is a welder, and the fourth is in his second year of undergraduate as a dual math and computer engineering major. Education has been my passion and I am very thankful for the opportunity that has been afforded my family because of the positive homeschool regulations in Ohio and the work of the State Board of Education.

I am very concerned about the legislative effort to do away with an elected board and move to a board that is solely appointed by the governor. With an elected official, I can choose to vote for someone who I feel will best represent my family's interest. In the current situation, if I have a concern, I can contact Diana Fessler, the board member representing my county. If we move to an appointed board, I may be able to contact the board members, but I will have no choice in who is appointed, nor will I be able to voice my opposition by not voting for that individual in a later election.

Homeschoolers are subject to regulations that are set by the State Board of Education. It is imperative that we have a democratic vote in determining this board. We are not represented by the local school board.

This change in structure has the potential to be damaging to a very successful and proven way of education.

It is my sincere request that you leave the State Board of Education as it is, an elected board which is truly representative of a healthy democracy.

Thank you for your time and your efforts.