

December 4, 2022

RE:

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 Rita Halmasy.

I am in objection to S.B.178 for the very fact that being a parent of 8 children cannot and will not freely hand over this very honorable and serious responsibility to a non-elected individual. My husband and I of more than 30 years have home-schooled our children. We have followed the requirements to the letter. A look at their records will prove a thriving accomplishment. To subject the entire state to a non-elected "authority" will stir up unnecessary and detrimental chaos. It is undeniable that consistency is the bedrock of a solid education. If the rules are subject to change whenever there is a party change in government, i.e Republican then Democrat and v.s., that bedrock will crumble. Every child has the right to peace and security in their education. S.B. 178 will strip that safety net from the parents and in turn harm each and every child in the state.

John Hagan was elected to our Board of Education in November. He was elected because he holds the same values as we hold. To take away this right from parents to elect those we esteem is wrong and an infringement upon our duties and privilege as parents. Education, where it is necessary to have standards and goals, is a local issue, NOT state. There is more than enough bureaucracy now we do not need to add more! Parents need support not a bully pulpit.

Regards,

Rita Halmasy