



Shaker Heights Schools

Testimony Opposing HB 11

Submitted by: Shaker Heights Board of Education

President: Dr. Emmitt Jolly

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Member: Alison Bibb-Carson

Member: Jeff Isaacs

Member: Heather Weingart

Chairman Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and Members of the Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on House Bill 11.

Shaker Heights City School Board of Education stands against the adoption of House Bill 11 for several reasons and we urge you to stand with us.

First, the bill mandates Ohio's citizens to fund private schools with their tax dollars, whether their children attend them or not. Removing restrictions for voucher eligibility in effect transfers the responsibility of funding private education from individual families to the public. In our community, that would largely mean subsidizing families with significant means, already sending their children to extremely expensive private schools, with public funds.

Second, research suggests that vouchers decrease the achievement of all students. Research on statewide voucher programs in Louisiana and Indiana found that public school students receiving vouchers to attend private schools scored lower on reading and math tests compared to their peers that remained in public schools. Voucher programs require limited reporting requirements and transparency around data, making subpar education hard to identify until it is too late for our children.

Third, House Bill 11 sanctions discrimination against Ohio students. Private schools are not widely available across the state, namely in rural areas. And private schools are not

open to all students, oftentimes using an admissions process that rejects students for various reasons. Public dollars will be diverted away from public schools and towards private schools that would have full autonomy to determine which of the Ohio students would be getting an education using our public funds.

Every child has the right to an education. This bill is another attempt to defund public schools and deprive our children of that right.

House Bill 11 does not protect the interests of our families or students. We urge you to vote "No" on House Bill 11.