

Chair Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Committee:

My name is Kara Butlien-Cohen and I am a high school science teacher for Dayton Public School who is adamantly speaking against the proposed House Bill 11. This piece of legislation has not been thoroughly vetted while in committee. If this bill passes, it will create a ripple effect that will be felt across on all levels of education in the state of Ohio. The reasons below expose some of the issues that will arise.

First and foremost, every parent is entitled to determine how they want their child to receive their education. This is a fundamental state right. However, if you wish to send your child to a private religious school or a non-chartered private schools, it should be expected that the parents figure out how to pay for it. There is no room in our state budget, which currently costs the state taxpayers **a minor** \$1.1 billion **just to cover the students currently enrolled in private schools**. Any business person will tell you that this is **not** a sound practice. Ohioans should not have to shoulder this burden if it does not affect their kids.

Let us break this down further. Should this bill come to pass, where would this money come from? The answer is rather simple, the public schools, where 90% of Ohio's students attend. This 90% includes students from urban and rural areas where a student's parents may not have the ability, skills, or resources to send their child to a private or charter school. Having worked in both urban and rural school districts, I know that my students would not be able to take advantage of such opportunity. Why not fully implement the Fair School Funding plan? This would ensure that all public schools are adequately funded.

We also need to consider that the acceptance for students for private schools. Unlike the prestige of a private school (they can be selective afterall), public schools **must** accept all students regardless of race, gender, ability, and religion. This increases inequities that will make vulnerable groups of people unable to obtain jobs post secondary school.

My students who come from lower income and unstable households are expected to receive the same quality education as kids in private schools. Urban and rural areas already have lower property values so they are more dependent on state funds for their budget. If funds are funned to cover the increased expenses due to vouchers, how am I expected to make sure these kids receive the quality education for a fraction of the cost? My students already have learning gaps because of circumstances beyond their control. Taking away outlets for funding would further restrict their opportunities. How can this help them? Are we predetermining their future?

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition. We must reconsider the intent of this bill and truly understand the potential harm it will most certainly cause. Therefore, **I urge a "no" vote on House Bill 11.**