

Opposition Testimony for HB 11

By Janie Halaiko

Chairman Byrd, Vice Chair Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and Members of The Ohio House of Representatives Primary and Secondary Education Committee

My name is Janie Halaiko, and I am a retired Ohio Public School Teacher and Administrator with over 35 years of service in Ohio Public Schools, twenty-three of those years were as an Elementary School Principal.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 11.

I am opposed to HB 11 for the following reasons:

- 1) HB 11 violates The Ohio Constitution by robbing constitutionally mandated funds intended for public schools and awards them to private educational entities.
- 2) HB 11 distracts from fully funding public education.
- 3) HB 11 forces Ohioans to fund private education.
- 4) HB 11 promotes loosely regulated unaccountable schools.
- 5) HB 11 helps private schools discriminate against students.
- 6) HB 11 funds schools not fully available across Ohio.
- 7) HB 11 harms and disadvantages rural communities.
- 8) HB 11 provides a voucher program that lacks supporting data or evidence.

This bill and several others, that are currently being proposed in The Ohio General Assembly will be the death knell of The Ohio Public School System, if passed. Our Ohio Public Schools are created for the common good and for all students. Our Ohio Public Schools are the bedrock of our democracy.

I strongly urge you to vote “No!” on HB 11, and any other bill that is taking public funds that are constitutionally mandated for our public schools.