

Ohio House Public Health Policy Committee
Proponent Testimony - HB 602
Kimra Bell
June 26, 2024

Chairman Mathews, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Public Health Policy Committee,

My name is Kimra Bell, and I appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony in favor of HB 602.

As a home educating parent of over 12 years now, I have been blessed to be in Ohio where home education is relatively easy. I've appreciated past legislation that has given me more freedom in home education, and I hope a precedent has been set regarding the State of Ohio's support of home education, parental rights, and freedom in general.

A significant part of our home education experience has been participation in various parent-led support groups and cooperative programs. The saying that "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts" is true with groups and programs like these. When home educating parents pool their complimentary areas of expertise, we create opportunities that benefit all of our students with a more well-rounded education.

The key feature of these groups is that they are parent-directed, not daycares or school-like drop-off programs. I am in support of HB 602, because revising the state law exempting home education learning groups (co-ops, learning pods, support groups, etc.) from state licensing for day cares simply supports the language already present in ORC 3321.042(A) that defines home education "the education of a child, between the ages of six and eighteen years of age, that is directed by the child's parent."

Thank you again for providing the opportunity for me to express my support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Kimra Bell