

Prioritizing funding for our state school system should be the focus of this legislature instead of creating more bureaucracy aimed at trampling democracy. We are now moving the broken Republican gerrymandered system into public education, and the implications for the state of Ohio are alarming! This will further deplete resources and increase segregation in our communities, and our state's wealthiest families will also be eligible for the private school subsidy. SB1 one is not a plan at all; it is reverse Robin Hood or, even better.. robbin' the hood.

There are no real solutions in this Bill, such as vocational public schools like Macomber-Whitney in Toledo that was closed because of lack of public-school funding, and it is a dangerous shell game for children with special needs.

In an interview with NPR, Stephanie Langer, a Florida attorney specializing in special education rights, shared, "When we hear that Florida is a role model, we cringe a little bit because we see so many problems with the system." What problems? Not enough rights and not enough funding.

The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, guarantees children with disabilities a "Free Appropriate Public Education," known as FAPE. However, outside of public and charter schools, there is no right to FAPE. As a mother of a child who had an individualized education plan (IEP) from grade school until he graduated, it is a needed resource for equity in education. However, more resources are needed for staffing teachers and supporting students with IEPs and disabilities. SB1 does neither. And for point of reference, our Ohio Department of Education currently evaluates and supports the IEP process, not the governor or a governor's Board.

Furthermore, funding vocational public schools, like Toledo's Macomber-Whitney, would allow young adults to graduate work ready. It provides a real chance for Ohio to move progressively forward with a highly educated and well-trained workforce, and it is an educational format that benefits the community.

Vouchers undermine the success of a robust public education and student opportunity. This past November, the voters of Ohio, *by the majority*, elected representatives to the Ohio State Board of Education. We have already decided who we want to represent and be our voices on education in Ohio. And yes, we also elected a Governor, by majority, who needs to focus on the job he was elected to do and keep his hands out of governing public education and that includes this legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

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