Senate Bill 1 First Name Last Name Opponent Testimony Senate Education Committee

February 28, 2023

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Jahnine Blosser. I am an educator in Toledo Public Schools in Toledo, Ohio. I strongly oppose SB 1.

As a teacher I oppose this bill for several reasons. First, this bill takes the voice of the public out of state-wide educational decisions and puts all the power in the hands of the governor and his appointee. No longer will the people of Ohio be able to vote for the State board of education members and have their voices heard in state-wide decisions. I specifically have voted in the past for people with educational backgrounds for the state board of education because I feel they have the right background to make the decisions about statewide educational policies. Secondly, making education an executive agency makes us too much like Florida. We have seen multiple cases of the governor, with too much control, banning particular classes and topics of study. This is ludacris when what we should want to do is educate children with the ability to think for themselves and become productive citizens who can make a difference in our state. We will not get great citizens by only giving students what the current governor decides is "acceptable" for them to learn.

Thirdly, ODE has been focusing on careers and career technical education and improving that side of education. It does not need to be in separate operations to improve. Instead, let the momentum continue to improve in the current structure instead of stopping and starting over again.

Finally, I recommend you vote against Senate Bill 1. Senate Bill 1 will severely hurt public education, making it more difficult to educate ALL students as the US constitution intended.

Thank you for your time in reading this,

Sincerely, Jahnine Blosser