

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 Brian Carlson. I am a Cincinnati resident. I am a product owner who works with Fortune 500 companies and, in my spare time, I am involved in public education advocacy. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 295.

This bill allows the state to close public schools that it deems as "performing poorly". I find it deeply hypocritical that our Republican supermajority, which purportedly supports less government, not more, has decided that it needs to be in the business of controlling local government. This will waste resources and money at the state level.

Schools are controlled at the local level for good reason; each district has different needs and challenges, and these can only be addressed by that district's community members. The state does not have the time, resources or the will to go to each "poorly performing" school and make a good-faith investigation into the school's difficulties. We have a functioning system for governing school districts that is ALREADY accountable to the voters.

Furthermore, just because a school has "poor performance" does not mean it should be closed. Too often, people think getting rid of a problem is a solution. I see this in not only the public sector, but with the companies I consult for. Every time, simply "removing" the problematic element causes more problems, since what caused the problem is not understood. Weeks or months later, the organization must grapple with the problem again.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this misguided bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian Carlson

will not stop being trans.