

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

I hope this finds you well. Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Sean Martin, and I am a constituent residing at 1113 Shangrila Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230. I am the father of a kindergartener and a third grader at Sherwood Elementary, in the Forest Hills School District. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 295 and to urge you to reject this harmful legislation.

As the Senate Education Committee, your leadership is critical in shaping policies that impact public education across Ohio. SB 295, which seeks to strip local school districts of decision-making authority, without considering constituent input, poses a significant threat to the well-being of our public schools and the communities they serve.

Local school districts, led by elected school boards, are best positioned to make decisions that reflect the unique needs of their students, families, and communities. By centralizing power at the state level, SB 295 undermines local control, imposes one-size-fits-all policies, takes away school choice, and disrupts the ability of districts like mine to provide high-quality, tailored education.

Our public schools face enough challenges without additional legislative burdens that weaken their autonomy. This bill represents an unnecessary overreach that would harm students, educators, and communities throughout Ohio.

I respectfully urge you to strongly oppose SB 295 and advocate for policies that strengthen local control and support our public schools. Thank you for considering my concerns, and I hope you will take action to protect the future of Ohio's students.

I am available to answer any questions you may have regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Sean Martin

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