

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

My name is Colleen Berliner. I reside at 7879 Meadowcreek Drive, Anderson Township 45244. I am the parent of a high school sophomore at Turpin High School, and a 2021 graduate of Turpin High School.

For the past 15 years, I have served on several parent group boards in several capacities, and have worked closely with administrators, faculty and staff to effect positive change for students. This work has given me much insight into how school districts operate, and what is needed to educate students at all levels.

SB 295, which seeks to strip local school districts of decision-making authority, regardless of their financial or academic well being, and without input from officials or taxpayers is irresponsible.

A centralized power structure would undermine local control, impose one-size-fits-all policies, and disrupt the ability of local officials to manage their school districts. It would also greatly expand the size and reach of government, something that I strongly oppose.

SB 295 denies children the education they need to thrive as adults, and deprives Ohio of the educated workforce it needs to attract employers to our state.

I believe the long-term financial wellbeing of our state depends on a strong education system, and I believe this bill undermines that.

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,
Colleen Berliner