

Testimony Opposing Ohio House Bill 42 (HB42)

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Paul Nichols, and I am a resident of Hilliard, Ohio. I urge you to reject HB42 because it introduces unnecessary risks, imposes heavy administrative burdens, and fails to demonstrate any meaningful benefit to our state.

1. Administrative Burden Without Clear Benefit

The bill requires multiple agencies—including school districts, law enforcement, and social service offices—to overhaul data systems, train staff, and implement regular reports. These tasks will consume time and taxpayer dollars, diverting resources from education, public safety, and social services. Yet HB42 offers no evidence that this data collection will improve outcomes for Ohioans. What problem does this solve? How will these reports make our communities stronger or safer?

2. Risks to Privacy and Civil Rights

HB42 mandates the collection and reporting of citizenship and immigration status across law enforcement, schools, public assistance programs, and Medicaid. We do not need more detailed statewide tracking personal information. Data that can be hacked and can undermine public trust and community safety.

3. State/Federal Legal Conflict

Federal privacy laws and constitutional protections may conflict with HB42's requirements, exposing the state to litigation and compliance costs. Moreover, the bill lacks clear standards for verifying immigration status, increasing the likelihood of errors and misclassification—errors that could have serious consequences for individuals and agencies alike.

In Conclusion

HB42 is a solution in search of a problem. It burdens agencies with costly mandates, and fails show any tangible benefit for Ohio. I respectfully ask this committee to reject HB42 and instead focus on policies that strengthen trust, protect privacy, and promote opportunity for all residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.