



**Opponent Testimony for House Bill 42**  
House Government Oversight Committee

November 18, 2025

Dr. Christina Collins, Executive Director  
Honesty for Ohio Education

Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey, and Members of the House Government Oversight Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on Senate Bill 42. My name is Dr. Christina Collins, and I serve as the Executive Director of Honesty for Ohio Education.

Honesty for Ohio Education is a statewide, nonpartisan coalition committed to ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality, honest, and inclusive public education. We believe deeply in strong local governance, community engagement, and educational practices that empower, rather than constrain, students, educators, and school leaders. I am here today to express our strong opposition to House Bill 42.

House Bill 42 would require state agencies, including the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), to collect and report data on immigration and citizenship status. While framed as a neutral data-tracking effort, the bill reaches deeply into our schools and classrooms, creating new risks for students, undermining trust, and compromising the very purpose of public education.

HB 42 represents a significant overreach into the operations of public schools. Ohio already requires districts to collect all information necessary for enrollment, accountability, and funding. But asking schools to gather or report any data tied to citizenship or immigration status moves us outside the bounds of education and into policing students and families.

Schools are not immigration enforcement agencies. They are not designed, trained, or authorized to function as investigative arms of the state. Any legislation that pressures schools to track, infer, or report immigration-related information, whether explicitly or as a downstream data requirement, disrupts the core mission of public education and exposes students to unnecessary fear and scrutiny.

Ohio educators work tirelessly to build trusting relationships with students and families. That trust is essential for learning. HB 42 threatens that trust by signaling to immigrant and mixed-status families, many of whom already live today with heightened anxiety, that schools may be conduits for government monitoring.

Students who fear that their personal or family information could be used against them are less likely to participate in school, less likely to ask for help, and less likely to report safety concerns. This bill would create a chilling effect across classrooms, particularly among English learners, newcomers, refugees, and U.S.-born children living in mixed-status households.

Finally, nothing in HB 42 improves educational outcomes, strengthens teaching and learning, or supports the well-being of students. Instead, it introduces fear, complexity, legal risk, and potential discrimination into an environment where none should exist. Ohio's schools should be places of learning, not tools for immigration data collection, and when students walk into a school building, they must feel safe, welcomed, and protected, not scrutinized or categorized.

For these reasons, Honesty for Ohio Education urges you to reject House Bill 42. Our schools must remain safe, welcoming, and constitutionally protected spaces for every child. HB 42 undermines that foundational principle and places students at risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration.