

Testimony for Senate Bill 34

Senate Education Committee

3/11/2025

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Molly Snodgrass and I am a parent of two children in the Big Walnut Local School District.

I am writing to inform the Committee that I find SB 34 wholly unnecessary and of little, if any, value to Ohio public schools and public school students. Even though it allows donations to be used to fund the required displays, requiring no budgetary expenditure, it is just one additional task that Board members, administrators, teachers, and/or staff will have added to their plates to select, source, and hang hundreds or, in larger districts, thousands of displays.

This is also something that individual school districts, governed by locally elected Boards of Education, could choose to do of their own accord, if they find it of sufficient value to their district. Requiring this of all Ohio school districts is just another example of making decisions at the state level that would be better kept at the local level.

More to the point, there is no empirical evidence to suggest that the mere presence of any of these documents displayed in each classroom will better educate students on their historical importance. I can guarantee that my children, sitting in a classroom with a poster of any of these documents displayed on the wall, will quickly come to overlook it. It will be a static item on the wall that they perhaps occasionally glance at but little more, not unlike an emergency exit map. But unlike emergency exit maps, for which schools practice regular emergency drills to teach students their relevance and importance, this bill adds nothing to better educate students on the displayed documents.

The time and effort of the General Assembly would be better spent on addressing public school funding, than on this bill. Please do not give further time to bills of such a superfluous nature.

Thank you again for the opportunity to have my voice heard.

Molly Snodgrass

Sunbury, Ohio