

**OPPONENT TESTIMONY**  
**Budget**  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**Kathleen Hofmann**  
**Member**  
**State Board of Education District 4**

**The proposal to reduce the State Board of Education from 19 members to 5, eliminating elected positions in favor of gubernatorial appointments, diminishes democratic representation in educational governance. The centralization of power could lead to decisions that do not reflect the diverse needs and perspectives of our communities, potentially marginalizing stakeholder input and undermining public trust.**

**Voters want an accountable State School Board as evidenced in their 1953 vote to move to an independent school board, free from corruption.**

**This change would strip 11 million voters of their voice in shaping a body that impacts critical state decisions, consolidate power in the executive branch without public accountability and undermine public trust by removing transparent, democratic input from the process.**

**There is a balance of elected and appointed members. Voices of the people from the 11 elected districts are represented. 8 appointed members add executive insight. Removing the 11 elected members eliminates accountability to the people of Ohio. I urge you to protect the public voice and oppose this amendment to the Budget Bill.**

**I urge you to consider my concerns and advocate for a budget that upholds the principals of transparency, equity and democratic participation in Ohio's Educational System**

**Thank You**

**Kathleen Hofmann**

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