

Opponent Testimony on SB 156

Submitted to the Senate Education Committee

June 23, 2025

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 156. My name is Lis Regula, and I live in Columbus, Ohio.

As an Ohioan committed to educational integrity and the well-being of our students, I urge you to reject this bill. SB 156 would impose a mandated “success sequence” curriculum on students in grades 6–12, requiring them, as a condition of graduation, to be taught that the only path out of poverty is to complete high school, secure full-time employment, and marry before having children.

This is not education. This is cultural indoctrination.

Rather than providing young people with evidence-based tools to understand economic mobility, health, and personal agency, SB 156 promotes a narrow and moralistic worldview—one rooted in outdated, exclusionary notions of “family values” that do not reflect the lived experiences or aspirations of many Ohio families.

This bill represents government overreach at its worst. It strips authority from locally elected school boards and cedes it to a politically appointed committee with broad and poorly defined power to set curriculum standards. The bill contains no clear framework for what will be taught or how success will be measured, raising serious concerns about transparency, accountability, and the ideological bias of those tasked with implementing it.

It is deeply troubling that this bill would make such a program a **graduation requirement**, effectively punishing students who do not conform to one narrow path of adulthood. It risks stigmatizing children of single parents, youth from nontraditional families, and those whose lived realities do not match this so-called “sequence.” In doing so, SB 156 sends a dangerous message about who deserves opportunity and success in our state.

Ohio students deserve rigorous, inclusive, and empowering education, not top-down political agendas disguised as curriculum. I urge the Committee to reject SB 156 and stand up for local control, student dignity, and a truly representative public education system.

Thank you for your consideration.