

Testimony Opposing SB 156  
Submitted by Trisha Hunt  
Marysville, Ohio  
Senate Education Committee  
June 23, 2025

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 156.

I am writing today as a concerned citizen who has been closely following legislation impacting public education and student well-being. I have attended multiple hearings at the Statehouse, and I continue to be alarmed by the steady push to insert a narrow set of personal, religious, and cultural values into our public school system.

SB 156 is a clear example of that trend. Framed as a poverty prevention tool, this bill mandates instruction in what's being called the "success sequence" - graduate from high school, get a full-time job, and marry before having children. These may be good choices for some, but they are not neutral facts or universal solutions. They are moralized standards that reflect one particular worldview and forcing them into the curriculum - especially as a graduation requirement - is ideological overreach.

The implication that a student's value or likelihood of "success" can be measured against this rigid path is not just misguided, it's harmful. It marginalizes students from diverse family structures, backgrounds, and life experiences. It sends a message to children that their worth is dependent on conforming to a specific social model, regardless of personal circumstance, identity, or community.

I am especially concerned by the vagueness of the bill and the way it hands authority to a committee to develop standards with little accountability or clarity. Ohio's schools are strongest when local communities and qualified educators make decisions based on evidence, not when the state imposes one-size-fits-all "values" from above.

I've seen how programs dressed up as moral instruction can turn into tools for religious or cultural indoctrination. This bill opens the door even wider to that kind of influence in our public schools, at the expense of inclusion, equity, and genuine student support.

I urge the committee to reject SB 156. Let's respect the diverse realities of Ohio's students and preserve the integrity of public education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Trisha Hunt  
Marysville, Ohio