

## **Opponent Testimony for SB-1**

**Date of Testimony: February 11, 2025**

**Francis Chiaramonte  
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Chair, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Francis Chiaramonte. I am a recent transplant to Ohio, and my partner works in education. I am here to express my strong opposition to SB-1 in its current form. This bill consolidates power under the governor and dismantles a decentralized educational system that has allowed Ohio to achieve better-than-average educational outcomes at a lower-than-average cost per pupil. I urge you to oppose this bill or support amendments that preserve local control and parental influence in education policy.

As a newcomer to Ohio, I have been impressed by the state's commitment to education and the involvement of parents, districts, and citizens in shaping policies that directly impact students. My partner, who works in education, has shared how this decentralized system fosters innovation and responsiveness to local needs. SB-1 threatens this balance by centralizing authority, which could lead to a one-size-fits-all approach that ignores the unique needs of communities like ours. This bill risks undermining the very system that has made Ohio a leader in cost-effective, high-quality education.

This bill would have far-reaching consequences for communities across Ohio. By consolidating power under the governor, SB-1 removes the ability of local districts, parents, and citizens to influence educational policies that directly affect their children. This shift could disproportionately harm rural and underserved communities, where local input is critical to addressing specific challenges. As someone who values community-driven solutions, I am deeply concerned about the potential erosion of trust and collaboration between educators, families, and policymakers.

I am testifying today because I believe SB-1 poses a significant threat to Ohio's educational system and the communities it serves. I ask that you oppose this bill and vote no, or support amendments that preserve local control and ensure that parents, districts, and citizens retain their ability to shape education policy. Ohio's success in

education has been built on a foundation of decentralization and community involvement—let's not dismantle what works.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Francis Chiamonte