



---

*Forging a partnership between farmers and consumers.  
•Working together for Ohio's farmers•*

**House Education and Career Readiness Committee  
H.B. 176 Proponent Testimony  
Jenna Beadle, Director of State Policy  
May 31, 2017**

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Slaby, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the House Education and Career Readiness Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. 176.

I would like to begin by explaining a little about Ohio Farm Bureau's policy development process. It is truly grassroots driven as the County Farm Bureaus vote on their local policy and write policies for our policy book, which is voted on by a delegate body comprised of county members from across the state at the Ohio Farm Bureau annual meeting. Those policies constitute the OFBF policy book and are what we use to take positions and advocate for our members. I am here today to speak to the sections of HB 176 that Ohio Farm Bureau's policy supports, so I will not be addressing the entirety of the bill.

We support the repeal of the Common Core standards contained within the bill. The amount of testing and the makeup of the tests under the Common Core standards have raised concern amongst our members. Our members perceive students spending countless hours preparing for and taking tests instead of getting an education. Furthermore, the content of the tests requires teachers to teach to the test severely limiting the students to what they can learn and the teachers to what they can teach. As a result of the stringent testing, we have seen a reduction in classes like family and consumer sciences, shop, and similar courses necessary for life because teachers do not have the time to incorporate anything other than what will be covered on the tests into their syllabi. Students are graduating from school without basic skills like cooking, balancing a checkbook, or understanding their food source.

Ohio Farm Bureau also supports local control for education. Local involvement in education helps to create strong communities and allows people to be directly engaged with the education their children receive. In addition, school districts best understand the needs of their students and how to evaluate their staff's abilities. By allowing districts to decide whether to implement the standards, it restores power to the people and allows them to be part of the process.

Thank you for your attention, and I will take any questions you may have at this time.