



Ohio House of Representatives
Committee on Education and Career Readiness

October 23, 2017

Dear Chairman Brenner and Members of the Committee on Education and Career Readiness,

On behalf of Ohio Parent-Teacher Association (Ohio PTA), my name is Susan Hans, and I am the President of Ohio PTA, the recognized parent-teacher organization representing 58,000 members across the Great State of Ohio. Founded in 1901, Ohio PTA is the oldest and largest volunteer focusing on the health, welfare, safety, and education of children and youth.

I am submitting written testimony to oppose H.B. 176 – a bill that would once again interrupt our state’s education system, especially regarding educational standards and aligned assessments. If changes need to be made, these changes need to be thoughtfully considered with the collaborative input of Ohio’s teachers and parents in a manner similar to the current Standards Review Process being implemented by the Ohio Department of Education.

For over six years, Ohio PTA has supported the development and implementation of Ohio’s Learning Standards. Ohio PTA also supports aligned assessments that are designed to provide information for school districts and teachers to help guide their instruction and curriculum development and needs. Now is not the time to repeal them. Repealing these standards will create chaos and unneeded turmoil in our classrooms and schools.

We know that Ohio’s Learning Standards identify the “what” of learning – the knowledge and skills Ohio students need to be successful in college, careers and life. The standards do not tell schools *how* to teach. Local school administrators and teachers decide how the standards are to be met and choose curriculum, instruction materials, textbooks, literature selections, and professional development to help reach all of their students’ educational needs. Additionally, school districts include community members in the approval process for new textbooks and literature selections through a committee process as outlined by state law.

Please know that Ohio PTA will continue to support Ohio’s Learning Standards and support public education. We will also continue to educate all parents about the importance of supporting their students and how to support their local school district’s efforts to educate their children and support their teachers while meeting our state’s education standards. Our schools do this and more while balancing the educational needs dictated by the state and also their community values.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Moving H.B. 176 forward will move Ohio backward and be disruptive to Ohio’s public schools and negatively impact children and their future. Ohio PTA opposes H.B. 176.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Hans". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Susan M. Hans
Ohio Parent-Teacher Association (Ohio PTA) President