

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chairman Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Sykes, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns about Senate Bill 216. We are members of SWEPP, a parent organization in Worthington City Schools. Our group supports enrichment programs for students in our district, including our gifted education program.

We are opposed to the SB216 provision which would eliminate the newly adopted professional development requirements for teachers offering gifted services outlined by the 2017 Gifted Operating Standards. Gifted students should not be considered 'served' if the teacher offering instruction has no specific training in how to meet the unique needs of those students served.

We are opposed to the SB216 requirement for maintaining large sub-group sizes which will effectively mask the performance of students in poverty, ELL students, students with disabilities, minority students, and gifted students in smaller, rural districts, where gifted students are already least likely to be identified and served.

We are opposed to the SB216 provisions affecting College Credit Plus, specifically the limitations on which courses may be taken at the University level in place of the high school level. These limitations undermine student choice, and put up unnecessary barriers to credit acceptance at out-of-state universities which do not accept high school dual enrollment coursework.

We are opposed to the SB216 provision allowing any licensed teacher to give instruction in courses and grade levels for which they are not licensed. This undermines the integrity of services provided to all students, including gifted children who benefit from the training received by licensed gifted intervention specialists.

We believe the above provisions will negatively impact Ohio's gifted students and their families.

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