



The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

**House Bill 90: Written Opposition Testimony
House Health Committee
April 30, 2019**

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd and Members of the Committee:

My name is Becky Higgins, President of the Ohio Education Association. On behalf of the more than 122,000 members of OEA, I thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Substitute House Bill 90. This bill would require the Ohio Department of Education, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health, to create an instructional program “regarding the humanity of the unborn child.” Additionally, the bill was recently amended to require every school district to implement this instructional program as part of the science curriculum in grades 3-8 and in health curriculum for grades 9-12.

Substitute HB 90 circumvents Ohio’s process for adopting curriculum standards. It would eliminate the professional expertise of Ohio’s science and health educators and professionals in the development and the design of curriculum. It is important to note that Ohio’s learning standards and model curriculum for science were revised recently in 2018 through the collaborative process mentioned above. Substitute HB 90’s requirements are also antithetical to Ohio’s commitment to local control.

Additionally, OEA is also concerned that the bill would impose an instructional program that is based on a particular perspective of morality. It is the job of parents, not educators, to instruct their own children on morality. Educators are encouraged to avoid expressing personal and moralistic views in their classrooms; Substitute HB 90 contradicts that principle.

Instead of the approach taken by the bill, OEA supports the creation of comprehensive health education standards that are developed by health educators and professionals. It should be done with careful attention to students’ developmental needs and respect for individual differences. Any changes to the science standards should go through the collaborative and rigorous process Ohio already uses.

We urge you to oppose Substitute HB 90. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

