

Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
Opponent Testimony for House Bill 11
April 25, 2023
Susan Messinger, President, Parma Education Association
Written-Only Testimony

Chairman Bird and members of the Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, my name is Susan Messinger. I'm a middle school teacher with 22 years of teaching experience with the Parma City School District, and I currently serve as the President of the Parma Education Association. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

I am writing to urge you to oppose proposals to dramatically increase eligibility for private school vouchers in Ohio. These plans divert needed state dollars away from 90% of Ohio's students who attend public schools instead of moving Ohio closer to a constitutionally funded public education system.

There is little data showing vouchers improve education quality or student outcomes and current voucher plans in Ohio have zero to no oversight. HB 11's plans to include funding for non-chartered private schools and homeschooling which offer no accountability for taxpayer money is a reckless use of that money.

I am all for the ability of parents who decide that home education or private schools are the best option for their children. My own parents made that decision for my siblings and I for high school, however they never expected taxpayer money to pay for their choice. They consistently voted to support local levies knowing the money would go to support the public schools in our town. Likewise, when I go to the ballot box and vote for my local school levy, my intent in making that choice is that the money should go to support my local public schools, not to fund private choices of others.

Rather than throwing money toward private or home school tuition, I urge you to please consider my testimony and oppose HB 11, and finish the job to fully implement the Fair School Funding Plan.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on HB 11.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Messinger