

Mr Chairman and members of the committee, I am Katie Hofmann, State Board of Education Member representing District 4 representing Hamilton and Warren Counties in Southwest Ohio.

I am a retired teacher from Cincinnati Public Schools. I spent 30 years in the classroom and the last 7 years of my career, I worked for the Superintendent of CPS, Mary Ronan, as the Teacher Leader for the Race to the Top and Teacher Incentive Fund grants. I worked to implement many ODE initiatives in Cincinnati and throughout Ohio specifically the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System and the OTES. As the only large urban district in the Teacher Incentive Fund, Cincinnati was the first urban district to be required to implement the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System.

My testimony today is in opposition to Senate Bill 1. Senate Bill 1 is NOT the will of the people. "We the People" voted in 1953 to remove the Department of Education and the State Board of Education away from the Governor's Office. If this committee wants to change the will of the people, then let the people decide. Put it on the ballot and see what voters think of your plan to remove the powers given to the State School Board and the ODE by the Ohio Constitution.

I see nothing in SB1 that will make an impact into the lives of students, teachers, administrators nor community members. In fact, SB1 nullifies the voices of parents and community. As an elected member of the State Board of Education, it is my responsibility to be their voice.

Instead of wasting valuable time and resources on SB1, I ask you to do your job. For 25 years the Funding for Ohio Schools has been unconstitutional. This body is responsible for adequate funding of Ohio's schools.

Here is my suggestion to all of you, if you really want to make a difference for Education in Ohio, fully implement the Cupp-Patterson

Fair School Funding Formula. Let me give you some examples of how that could change the outcomes for our students in Ohio.

- **Just imagine how outcomes would change if all 3 and 4 year olds would have access to a quality Preschool so that they are prepared for Kindergarten**
- **How about if the Community Learning Center model would be expanded throughout Ohio. Through partnerships, Community Learning Centers incorporate Health Clinics, Vision, Hearing and Dental Services, Food Pantries, Mental Health Services, Family counseling, classes for parents to learn how to help their children with their schooling and GED classes, to name a few. These models are keys to Student Wellness, support for students and their families and accelerated learning.**
- **I further suggest that Ohio drastically cuts back on the amount of testing. I heard this time and again from parents, teachers and students throughout my district. TOO much time is being spent on “test prep” and “test taking strategies” that the joy of learning is gone.**
- **I would like to see classrooms of third graders reading in all content areas, exploring content connections and building content specific vocabulary. Let's bring back the love of learning. Our children are much more than a number.**

In conclusion, Senate Bill 1 is nothing more than a power grab. It will do NOTHING to move Ohio forward. It is just another layer of bureaucracy. Vote NO on SB1.

This Legislature needs to respect the will of the people. Let the people decide whether the State Board of Education should be transferred back to the Governor's office.

