

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 1. There are numerous reasons for my concern. First, the Department of Education should not be partisan, which would be inevitable if it is controlled by the governor. It is suspicious that this is being proposed after Ohioans fairly elected members to the Board in the most recent election. This is effectively silencing the voice of many, as those elected reflect the eleven districts across the state. Second, overhauls to education policies which some in the legislature are complaining about, have been proposed by the Board but never enacted. Additionally, decreasing oversight in needed areas including charter schools and for home schooling is damaging. The test scores of the majority of charter schools are very low; home schooled children are often below grade level, with rare supervision of those teaching to determine effectiveness. To truly claim accountability, there must be a diverse Board with experience who must be responsive to their constituents, who know their local needs. The legislature should work **with** the Board to write policies for **all** children to be educated and trained to pursue vocations. To draw people here, you must have representative decision makers who are willing to look to best practice and current thinking in how schools function. Other states who have bowed to politics are now suffering, most particularly the children. This is bad policy for Ohio.