

WHEREAS, the Ohio House of Representatives is currently considering legislation that would consolidate the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Higher Education, and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation into a new state agency called the Department of Learning and Achievement; and

WHEREAS, the proposal transfers nearly all the duties and authority of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the new state agency; and

WHEREAS, this proposal was drafted without the input of students, parents, educators, administrators, schools, school districts, superintendents and board members, all of whom would be negatively affected by the bill; and

WHEREAS, this legislation creates an environment in which the unique needs of students, educators, parents, and school districts will be lost within an expanded bureaucracy, and the role and authority of the elected members of the State Board of Education would be undermined by stripping it of nearly all its duties; and

WHEREAS, supporters of the bill cite a lack of communication among state education agencies as the key source of Ohio's education problems, but effective collaboration and cooperation is already occurring, and each school district strives to effectively prepare its students for college or a career; and

WHEREAS, important decisions on topics like school funding, graduation requirements, report cards, and state assessments would be made by politically appointed, unelected staff with little to no accountability and under a process with almost no public input; and

WHEREAS, public education is at its best when the interests of the people are served through publicly elected boards, and the State Board of Education is no exception; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT, AND IT IS, HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Norton Board of Education does express its opposition to this legislation, HB 512; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer be directed to spread this resolution upon the minutes of the Board of Education and that copies of the resolution be forwarded to members of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate.