

March 28, 2023

Ref: HOLD in COMMITTEE HB119/SB199

Dear Education, Energy and Environment Committee:

I am writing to ask you to hold HB119/SB199 in the Committee. This bill does the following things that HURT children:

    OVERRIDES the authority of local elected Boards of Education to mold curriculum and courses to respond to local needs and values

    MANDATES adoption of State Board of Education policy and guidelines for every element of instruction and will prohibit any student from opting out of instruction

    The State Superintendent will be able to IMPOSE heavy financial penalties for any deviation, by a local board, not resolved within 30 days by withholding 10% of state education funding. If compliance is not met in 60 days an additional 10% would be withheld in a manner not approved by the State Board.

I am urging the Senate to hold BH 119 in committee and if necessary, send it to interim study for some reasonable resolution to allow local elected boards of education to exercises some local flexibility to alter State curriculum guidelines to mee the needs and values of their school districts.

Sincerely,

Theresa Myers