

SAMPLE Resolution to Repeal Ohio's School Takeover Law – House Bill 70

From Public Education Partners

WHEREAS, after months of covert meetings led by the Ohio Department of Education at the behest of the governor, Ohio's 131st General Assembly swiftly enacted a school takeover bill in 2015, and the governor signed HB 70 into law, a plan to take over public school districts with low test scores and replace them with charter schools; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's citizens have never agreed to any initiative to give the state authority to take over struggling public school districts; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 70 may have bypassed Article VI Section 3 of the Ohio Constitution, stating that, "Provision shall be made by law for the organization, administration and control of the public school system of the state supported by public funds: provided, that each school district embraced wholly or in part within any city shall have the power by referendum vote to determine for itself the number of members and the organization of the district board of education, and provision shall be made by law for the exercise of this power by such school districts;" and

WHEREAS, an elected school board provides a democratic voice for parents and community members to influence decision-making regarding public education; and

WHEREAS, school takeovers eliminate local democratic control when struggling districts are placed under state takeover; and

WHEREAS, school districts in economically distressed areas generally have low grades on the state report card, and school districts in affluent areas have high grades; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of the public believes that disinvestment in schools is a primary obstacle to a high-quality public education; and

WHEREAS, efforts to change the governance of public schools will not result in the infusion of needed resources and will shift responsibility for providing a sound public education away from the state and towards financially struggling parents; and

WHEREAS, school takeover policies in other states have failed to raise student achievement and have created disruptions for students, parents, and community members; and

WHEREAS, high-quality opportunities for all students require additional resources, including better access to health and social services, early childhood education, and academic enrichment programs, which are the cornerstone of improved outcomes for Ohio's children; therefore be it

RESOLVED that _____ supports the complete and immediate repeal of HB 70, as well as replacement of the policy with an evidence-based turnaround model that restores local control and improves student outcomes; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that _____ shall inform the press and the community regarding the harm inflicted by HB 70.

