



LaBrae Local Schools

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Home of the Vikings!

May 27, 2014

Mr. Joe Schiavone
1 Capitol Square
3rd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Schiavone,

We are writing you as members of the LaBrae Local School District's Board of Education, and as concerned citizens, regarding the notion that the "thorough and efficient" standard be removed from Article VI, Section 2 of the Ohio Constitution.

As citizens and elected representatives, we have grave concerns whenever proposals are offered that threaten the democratic principles upon which this country was founded, especially when said proposals give the appearance that the impetus behind such a suggestion would be for political expedience, all the while permitting the legislature to abdicate its responsibility to properly fund public education.

Judicial review works so effectively at maintaining limited government, which is a hallowed precept of representative democracy, and this effectiveness becomes threatened when proposals such as this are put forth. Finding a thorough and efficient manner in which all schools are funded appropriately, and without an over-reliance on property taxes, as articulated in the Court's ruling in *DeRolph v. Ohio, 1997*, is difficult work. The solution is found in an objective and committed approach to devise and revise funding formulas to accomplish this Constitutional standard. The solution does not lie in simply removing a standard from the Ohio Constitution, thereby absolving the legislature of its constitutional obligations, and thus protecting the Assembly from future judicial review.

In short, the Board of Education vehemently opposes any effort to remove the "thorough and efficient" standard from Ohio's Constitution, and as such, we are forwarding you a copy of our resolution in support of Ohio's "thorough and efficient" constitutional standard.

Respectfully,

LaBrae Board of Education

Russell Sewell

Virginia Blaney

Diane Duncan

Gary Morton

Timothy Gibson

Guarding “*Thorough and Efficient*” Provisions of the Ohio Constitution

WHEREAS, the constitutional provision requiring the General Assembly to secure a **thorough and efficient system of common schools** has held the State of Ohio to a high standard for over 160 years, and

WHEREAS, the Education, Public Institutions & Miscellaneous and Local Government Committee of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission, is considering a proposal to remove the standard of thorough and efficient from the Ohio Constitution, and

WHEREAS, we believe this would essentially remove any checks and balances that otherwise would be exercised by the judicial branch of government, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the **LaBrae Local School District**, of Trumbull County, Ohio, strongly opposes the removal of the words “thorough and efficient” from Article VI, section 2 of the Ohio Constitution, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the thorough and efficient clause be strengthened by adding a provision that each Ohio student shall have the fundamental right to high quality educational opportunities, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to all members of the 130th General Assembly, the Governor, State Board of Education, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Members of the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission, other state officials and the media.

Adopted ***with unanimous approval*** on this 12th day of May, 2014.



Russell Sewell, President, Board of Education



Carol J. Jones, Treasurer, LaBrae Local Schools