



1251 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43205

May 19, 2011

House Speaker William Batchelder
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Speaker Batchelder:

I urge you to consider removing from House Bill 153 all provisions that replicate language in Senate Bill 5 when it comes before you during Conference Committee. While we may have a difference of opinion on the outcomes of Senate Bill 5, I hope you agree that the legislature should honor the public voice that will be requesting, by petition, that SB 5 be placed on the fall ballot for a public vote by Ohio's citizens.

I make this request for the following reasons. First, allowing the public voice via the petition process is the essence of democracy, "by, of and for the people" in the most direct and pure form. The referendum is a democratic process clearly afforded citizens in the Ohio Constitution. Legislators should not usurp voters in their role to have the final say on the outcome. Elected officials have already acted and should not circumvent the public process. Second, it has come to my attention that members of your own caucus are considering some amendments to this effect which we support. Third, the public supports transparency and allowing the referendum process to play out is the best for all concerned.

Finally, I want to point out that the current budget bill language regarding teacher evaluation and performance pay conflicts with the state's Race to the Top grant requirements. This could jeopardize Ohio's receipt of that grant, causing the loss of \$300 million.

Thank you for consideration of this letter. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Sue Taylor, President
Ohio Federation of Teachers

Cc: House members