



Darbi Boddy
PO Box 906
West Chester, OH 45069
(513)426-0303
darbiboddy@access-ohio.com

11/16/2025

Member of the Ohio House of Representatives
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Member of the Ohio House of Representatives,

I am writing as a concerned Ohio parent, and founder of Access Ohio—a 501(c)(3) civic organization dedicated to empowering parents, strengthening families, and preserving traditional American values—to urgently request that you vote NO on Senate Bill 174. As a dedicated wife and mother of four, I have witnessed firsthand the importance of parental rights in protecting our children. SB 174 represents one of the most sweeping expansions of judicial power over families in Ohio’s history, posing a serious threat to parental autonomy, family integrity, and constitutional protections.

SB 174 grants “complete discretion” to judges to override the decisions of fit, responsible parents—even when both parents agree and there is no allegation or evidence of harm. This unprecedented language opens the door for courts to dictate decisions regarding schooling, medical care, communication, and day-to-day parenting. No branch of government should have this level of unrestricted control over private family matters. This invites overreach, where parental judgment is subordinate to a judge’s preferences, eroding the presumption that fit parents—not the government—know what is best for their children.

The bill also appears to violate the Ohio Constitution’s single-subject rule by bundling numerous unrelated rewrites of custody law, parental rights definitions, best-interest factors, and procedural structures. A 400-page restructuring of family law should not be pushed through as a unified package without transparent, public, and citizen-driven debate.

Perhaps most importantly, citizens overwhelmingly opposed SB 174. Forty-six Ohioans submitted opposition testimony. Not a single private citizen testified in support. The only proponents were judicial and bar-related lobbyists—many funded by taxpayers. Ohio families asked to be heard and were ignored.

For nearly a century, the U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed that “The child is not the mere creature of the state.” SB 174 undermines this core American principle by empowering courts to override parental judgment simply because a judge believes they know best.

Ohio parents want legislation that protects children, strengthens families, and ensures fairness—not a bill that expands court control and weakens parental authority.

Sincerely,
Darbi Boddy
Founder, Access Ohio
darbiboddy@access-ohio.com
(513)426-0303
West Chester, OH