

**Representative Jamie Callender's HB671 to withhold funds from school districts that are exercising their constitutional right to challenge the state in court is beyond lunacy and frenzy.**

School districts have a right to challenge the constitutionality of actions of the state of Ohio. School districts have the right to form a council of governments pursuant to chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code. Districts joining together in a council of governments challenged the constitutionality of Ohio's school funding system in 1991. The Ohio Supreme Court ruled the state's school funding system unconstitutional in 1997, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

In 2021 the school districts joined together via the same coalition to challenge in court the constitutionality of Ohio's EdChoice Voucher program.

In June 2025 Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Jaiza Page ruled the EdChoice voucher system unconstitutional. The case is now pending in the 10<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals. Now State Representative Callender has introduced a bill to stop funding school districts that are financially supporting the litigation. The bill would discontinue the right of the district to challenge the state. That is a vindictive, egregious, and blatant attempt to force the litigation to come to a halt without allowing the case to proceed through the court system. HB671 is not only a threat to school districts but also a challenge to the legal functions of the court. It is a challenge to the separation of powers. It is tantamount to one branch of government interfering with the functions of a separate co-equal branch.

In recent years, certain Ohio legislators have shown complete contempt for the Ohio Constitution. As one legislative leader stated, "We kinda do what we want..."

If Ohio citizens don't stand up to public officials who "kinda do what they want" with no regard to the Constitution or the public good, then democracy will falter and eventually fail.

Where is the outrage?