

December 2021 Legislative Report

HB 497: Introduced by Representatives Gayle Manning and Phil Robinson, [this bill](#) would reduce third grade state testing to a single round, and end student retention based on test scores. Godspeed to this common sense bill.

Guns in School: [Ohio's Republicans Closer to Arming Under-Trained Teachers](#). The article speaks for itself. Check it out. A local legislator weighs in on the bill [here](#).

Backpack Bill: Public school advocates statewide are unifying against proposed universal vouchers in [House Bill 290](#). From the Ohio Coalition for Equity & Adequacy of School Funding: "Charter and voucher students are funded from the School Foundation Aid line item historically assigned to school districts. HB290 would remove nearly \$1 billion for students that are currently homeschooled and those who are currently enrolled on private tuition." For more information on the problems with private school vouchers follow [this link](#).

Redistricting: Lawsuits opposed to Ohio's proposed Congressional districts have [begun this week](#). Groups championing the litigation, including the [American Civil Liberties Union](#), argue that the new maps favor Republicans, and are potentially more gerrymandered than the previous maps.

Contacting Politicians: Remember that the primary role of your elected officials is to serve you! So, if you're interested in thanking them for their service, wishing them happy holidays, or letting them know that easing restrictions on guns in school is negligent, banning topics of discussion in classrooms is tantamount to the censorship of American History, or that GERRYMANDERING DISENFRANCHISES VOTERS...

I'm sorry, I got angry there, but I've taken a moment, typed "All work and no play makes Matt a dull boy" a few hundred times in a separate document, and now I'm fine. Anyway, if you've got something to tell them, you can reach Elyria's State Representative Gayle Manning [here](#), and Elyria's State Senator Nathan Manning [here](#).

As always, for more information on this, and other bills, as well as how to take some action on behalf of your students and your profession, [check out and follow OEA's Legislative Watch](#).