

HB264 Proponent Testimony  
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Chairman Green, Vice-Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee; thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for House Bill 264 which creates the “Hudson City Schools” license plate. This bill would allocate \$30.00 to the Hudson City School District for discretionary use.

Our mission, in the Hudson City Schools, is to provide an educational program that maximizes the intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of each child in a safe, nurturing, and diverse environment. We often call this a mission to educate the whole child.

We educate the whole child by providing a complete and well-rounded educational experience in Academics, Performing and Visual Arts, Athletics and Activities, by developing Local and Global Partnerships, and through developing opportunities for Student Leadership and Service. Embedded in each of those experiences we teach character traits such as: integrity, honesty, work ethic, desire to learn, caring, perseverance, creativity and compassion. We believe that our students deserve for us to model those characteristics for them, and as a school district and community, to help them develop those characteristics in themselves.

Our community’s approach to supporting the whole child has paid off. Hudson High School is ranked 216th in the nation by the Washington Post and US News & World Report, and 94th in the nation, 3rd in the State and 1st in Northeast Ohio by Newsweek Magazine. Hudson Middle School has also achieved national recognition for its work with student enrichment and assistance during its "Focus Period" for all students.

While I could list many academic, athletic, musical, and artistic accolades, one of the achievements of which I am most proud is our commitment to community service. As one example, through our state-recognized Service Learning Program, nearly 100 seniors participated in community service, working with local and regional agencies, to provide a collective 20,208 service hours last year, while earning credits in both English and Social Studies.

But we are not only focusing on meeting the challenges of today. It may be hard to believe, but the class of 2030 is already in our classrooms. Our students are entering our classrooms smart, tech savvy, experienced in active learning, and ready to advance their skills in solving complex and real-world problems. It is our instructional vision that we will provide advanced academics and hands-on skills that they need to connect today's classroom content to tomorrow's workforce. Our goal is to be at the forefront of teaching and learning in this state and nation. To reach that goal, we must be able to adapt to changing circumstances and opportunities and prepare our staff to do the same. I share all of this with you because I want to express that what we do is meaningful, but it is not easy and it is not inexpensive.

I appreciate your consideration of this legislation that designates \$30 for every Hudson City School District License Plate that is purchased, because every dollar will help us achieve our vision. The revenue is essential. Since 2011, the district has lost over \$4,000,000 in annual state funding from the phase out of Tangible Personal Property Tax Reimbursements. I believe in our students, staff, and community and the opportunities we can create to prepare our students for the world they will be living in. I am here to ask for your support because, while I do not expect license plates to offset all TPP reductions, if there is an opportunity to provide revenue to support our students' growth, we will ask for it, even if it is \$30 at a time.

I also appreciate that the bill does not designate how the district must spend the funds. As you know, education is rapidly evolving, and what I, or our Board of Education, would identify as a need today, may be significantly different in 5, 10, or 15 years. However, I can assure you that the funds will always go to support our mission of developing the whole child and will support the development of academic initiatives, fine arts, athletics, clubs, student activities, and opportunities for service that develop our students as leaders who will have a positive impact on this world.

Chairman Green and members of the committee; thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on HB 264. I will be glad to entertain any questions the committee might have at this time.