

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: March 18, 2015

NAME: Maxwell Wilson

ORGANIZATION: Brookside High School
(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: Student

ADDRESS: 1919 Harris Rd

CITY: Sheffield Village STATE: Ohio ZIP: 44054

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ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF _____ ORGANIZATION X

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON
LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): 64
SPECIFIC ISSUE: _____
SUBJECT MATTER: _____

DO YOU FAVOR _____ OR OPPOSE X THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT: Appropriation of funds makes schools such as ours stand to lose over 400k. Funding is an integral part of a strong community and a strong school system.

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?
YES X NO _____
(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? 3 mins

Distinguished committee members, thank you for allowing me this time to speak to you about House Bill 64. My name is Maxwell Wilson, a student from a small school in Sheffield, and I would like to keep you for as brief a time as possible, because I know you are very busy. I know you have heard and are yet to hear hundreds of principals and superintendents testify as to what they will gain or lose if House Bill 64 passes.

I am here to give you some insight from the perspective of a student. I urge you to not make any decisions in haste or in passing that will have heavy repercussions on many students all throughout the state. As a junior in high school, I attend a school that is facing another tax hike. The consequences of this levy not passing would be the elimination of all extracurricular activities from sports to robotics. My school system stands to lose over 400 thousand dollars if house bill 64 passes. Our school as well as many other schools cannot afford this kind of cut in this fiscally daunting economy.

The people in our town have no money left to give to the schools. The property tax rate in Sheffield Lake is the highest in the county, but the funding under house bill 64 threatens to eliminate any hope of a strong community and school district. Without any money upon which we depend from the state government many people that I know personally, including myself, will transfer to other schools in the area in order to continue playing sports and partaking in the extracurricular activities that they love. If House Bill 64 passes, the Sheffield-Sheffield Lake school district will crumble under high taxes and low enrollment.

I urge you not to discard the bill entirely, but to reevaluate the formula by which the funds are appropriated. If some more time and thought were placed into how each county and each district were affected by this bill, you would see that the premise of the bill is logical, but

the application of the bill is not practical. I trust your judgment on the integrity of this bill, but I want to bring as much information to your attention as possible.

I hope that hearing testimony from the people that will be directly affected, the students, will carry more weight than the ocean of administration right outside your door. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak to you and I hope that you see why House Bill 64 cannot pass, for the sake of middle class students everywhere.