



**Ronald V. Gerberry**  
State Representative

**SPONSOR TESTIMONY – HB 43**  
**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**  
**MARCH 17, 2015**

Good Afternoon, Chairman McClain, Vice Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Cera, and distinguished members of the House Ways and Means Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to present sponsor testimony today on House Bill 43.

This legislation seeks to reduce school building costs for local school districts and taxpayers. House Bill 43 would require the state to pay set percentages of school construction costs while decreasing the cost of local school improvement levies by 12.5 percent for local property taxpayers, thereby making school construction funding more equitable.

Specifically, the bill caps local matching funds at 75 percent of total school improvement costs through the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP) by ensuring that no school district's portion of the basic project cost is greater than 75 percent. The bill also sets a fifty-fifty cost share for construction between the state and local districts under the Exceptional Needs Program (ENP). The Exceptional Needs Program is the funding model that prioritizes single building replacement based on student health and safety. The current funding system is based on an assessed property valuation per student.

House Bill 43 would also reduce the increased cost of local levies for some schools by reinstating the 12.5 percent state cost sharing for local school improvement levies that was eliminated in the last state budget, House Bill 59 of the 130<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

House Bill 43 does not change the priority list of districts in line for funding, but it could mean schools would face looser requirements by using the ENP model for school construction funding. In the past, schools could not use the program if local levies failed or if they did not first seek funding through the CFAP.

Ohio needs to make a greater investment in public education both now and in the future. I believe House Bill 43 would take some of the financial burden off local taxpayers while giving our young people more opportunities to succeed.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Committees:**

Policy and Legislative Oversight –  
Ranking Member  
State and Local Government

**[www.house.state.oh.us](http://www.house.state.oh.us)**  
**77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111**

**Contact Information:**

Office: 614-466-6107  
Toll-Free: 1-800-282-0253  
FAX: 614-719-3959  
Email: [district59@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:district59@ohiohouse.gov)