

House Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee

Testimony for HB 49

Offered by David P. Quattrochi, Ed.D., Superintendent of Carrollton Exempted Village School District

Chairman Cupp and members of the committee:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to come before you today to discuss pupil transportation as it relates to HB 49.

My name is David Quattrochi and I am the superintendent of the Carrollton Exempted Village School District. Today I would like to discuss the Governor's proposed budget, specifically the negative impact it has on public pupil transportation on rural school districts.

Demographic Information

The Carrollton Exempted Village School District is located in Carroll County, Ohio and covers 290 square miles. The District serves over 2,100 students in Pre/K – 12 in communities throughout rural Carroll County. There are three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Currently, there are 19 buses routes needed to pick up and drop off students at five schools in addition to a career center, a non-public school and an alternative education school in the Canton, Ohio area. Buses travel 2,278 miles per day. It is important to mention that the community has not passed a school levy since 1977.

Miscellaneous Dollars Spent on Transportation – 2015-2016

The District transports 1,007 students per day utilizing 19 school buses. The following includes miscellaneous expenses for transportation from the General Fund for the 2015-2016 school year:

• Maintenance and Repair	\$123,997.00
• Fuel	\$121,326.00
• Tires and Tubes	\$24,769.00
• Bus Insurance	\$17,873.00
• Other	\$12,009.00

Total Miscellaneous Cost	<hr/>
	\$229,974.00

The state average cost to operate a bus is \$50,000. However, it cost the Carrollton Exempted Village School District approximately \$78,000 per year to operate a bus due to the hilly terrain and amount of miles traveled each day. The District spends a total of \$1,406,489.00 per year on busing (including salaries and other costs).

Antiquated Fleet

Buses that our students ride to school are aging. The oldest active bus was purchased in 2002. It currently has 226,400 miles. The second oldest bus is a 2004 with 242,252 miles. My point is that our fleet is outdated and an excessive amount of money is spent on purchasing new buses. This year, the District purchased three Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses for approximately \$124,000 each, a 72 passenger diesel bus and a 33 passenger diesel bus. The total cost for these five buses totaled \$528,387.00. This is money that could have been used in the classroom to purchase computers, technology, online resources, etc.

Summary

As superintendent of a rural school district, I ask the subcommittee to consider revisions to the budget that will help offset dollars spent on transportation. School transportation is a valuable service offered to parents, but it comes with a high cost to the districts. These costs limit the funds available to students and teachers in the classroom, where they are most valuable. Thank you for allowing me to discuss my concerns regarding the proposed budget for public education and I would be happy to respond to any questions at the pleasure of the chair.