

Chairman Hite, Vice Chairman Sykes, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for this opportunity to address you regarding the needs of the Manchester Local School District in Adams County.

As Treasurer Ballengee has outlined, the Manchester School District needs immediate and substantial assistance. Currently, language to help Manchester (in the House version of the budget bill) only gives the District \$500,000 to replace the \$1.5 million loss we have already sustained, and is silent as to what will happen to us in February and June. Right now we do participate in the School Foundation program. Our aid amount is approximately \$1.5 million. What we need is for the 3-year averaging method of determining a district's valuation be temporarily lifted so that as our valuation precipitously drops that the Foundation Program immediately recognizes the new, lower valuation. Secondly, and simultaneously, we need the caps removed so that the full amount as determined by the funding formula be given to the District. Once the valuation of the District has "settled" at the new lower amount (which won't take long as plant closure is scheduled for June 2018) then Manchester can be placed back on the 3-year averaging method (like everyone else) and the caps can be reinstituted (like they are for everyone else). This should be written so as to take into consideration that we've already lost \$1.5 million and are faced in early July with cutting 10% of our teaching staff, two administrators, our school resource officer, the school social worker, and 17 days of instruction for next year for our boys and girls, and that's just to cover the \$1.5 million loss we're already experiencing in this current fiscal year. When February comes and we lose another \$800,000 in the middle of the year, this would necessitate even more dramatic cuts, which, as bad as they would be, would be even more problematic as they would have to be done in the middle of a school year. When we would get to June of next year the plants will close. I can't make enough cuts to cover that. This District will simply be insolvent.

The Foundation Program is in place to support school districts. Manchester already participates, but unless the changes I outline are put in place, it would take *20+ years* for the Foundation payments to rise to level the District would have always been receiving had it not been for the power plants. Also, a quick calculation shows that we cannot tax ourselves out of poverty. In order to do so, we would have to have our voters approve a 111-mill property tax levy to replace the revenue lost to the District via the devaluation/closure of the power plants.

Our elementary school is a School of Promise, and our High School is, and has been for six consecutive years, a Bronze-level awardee on the US News and World Report's List of Best American High Schools. Our District hosts the summer recreation program for the boys and girls for the entire county (not just Manchester LSD), and we serve as the Summer Feeding Site for all of Adams County (and truck food daily to the public libraries located throughout Adams County). In addition, the Manchester School District hosts and supports the Valley View Health Center. The Center, located in our building

complex, is open to students, staff, and importantly, the general public, and offers medical services via a full-time nurse practitioner, dental services via a visiting D.D.S., and vision services through a visiting optometrist. We do all this despite of, and also because of, the reality that Adams County vies with Pike County as the poorest county in Ohio (and we are also, sadly, the epicenter of the opioid pandemic (we even had a bus driver come across a dead drug user in the middle of the road while running his route with children on the bus).

Please let us continue in our good work. We are the only lifeline many Manchester boys and girls have.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Charles J. Shreve
Superintendent, Manchester LSD