

Dear Senate Committee and State Senator Schuring,

I am writing to you today asking you to support Senate Bill 248.

As you are aware, the Plain Local school district has not only been impacted by the state budget cuts, but now also stands to be impacted to the tune of another over \$600,000 due to the territory transfer law in which Hills and Dales and Irondale voted to transfer out of Plain if we lose our challenge in the courts.

The State requirement for storm shelters needs to be delayed. It would not only be onerous at this time of budget cuts and funding uncertainties, but we also need to keep in mind that unless something happens to ease the concerns of the Coronavirus, we may not even have students in the buildings this coming September!

Please consider that:

- Districts have already suffered a state funding cut and are expecting more. We cannot afford another unfunded mandate when resources are already scarce and could be better utilized and prioritized to meet the immediate needs of students
- The storm shelter requirements are costly, overly burdensome and unreasonable as they relate to the risks they are meant to mitigate
- Ohio's investment in educating students and student safety would be better made elsewhere
- Neighboring states, like Indiana and Michigan, do not have such a requirement

I hope that I can count on you as our representative and as Chairman of the Senate Committee to support Senate Bill 248, and to include it in legislation to be passed before the June recess. I would testify before your committee if I could, but the short notice of the hearing tomorrow coupled with social distancing issues prevents me from doing so. Please consider this communication as a substitute for that testimony.

Sincerely,

John

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