



December 15, 2020

Ladies & Gentleman,

The year 2020 has been discouraging and filled with uncertainties. The State of Ohio and its constituents will continue to face many unknown challenges in the coming months stemming from this pandemic. Have we seen the worst or is this just the tip of the iceberg? Unfortunately, none of us have the answer to this question.

Public school districts continue to thrive despite numerous obstacles to derail the educational system. In recent months, a variety of issues have been introduced that would negatively impact public school district funding: EdChoice Voucher Plan and Reduced Property Valuation (HB 751). Districts are constantly battling legislative decisions that impact either state or local revenues.

HB 305 (Ohio K-12 Funding Formula) was recently passed in the Ohio House by an 84-8 vote. However, it is widely known that the Senate does support this plan. Senate President, Matt Huffman, stated in response to HB 305, "I think it's a pretty tough thing for the Senate, in the last two weeks of a General Assembly, to pass."

While the preceding issues noted above are troubling, the reason I take time to write each of you today is to address **HB 442** that would eliminate various state-required licenses including school treasurers and business managers.

As a former auditor for the State of Ohio, I can tell you significant differences exist between qualified school treasurers/business managers and elected or appointed officials in Counties, Cities, Villages and Townships. We often referred to Cities, Villages and Townships as the "Wild West" in the audit world and schools as our sanctuary. The Treasurer and Business manager roles have evolved from a number cruncher into a financial leader that ensures the district is safeguarded. It is vital to our communities and taxpayers that licensed professionals with accountability are employed in these roles.

Please help protect public school districts and its taxpayers by saying **NO to HB 442.**

If you have questions or would to discuss please email or call me anytime.

Sincerely,

Nick Roberts