

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: March 23, 2023

Name: Doug Hale

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): Chesapeake Union Exempted Village School District

Position/Title: Superintendent

Address: 10183 County Road 1

City: Chesapeake State: OH Zip: 45619

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 33

Specific Issue: Fair School Funding

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 3-5 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Fair school funding as it affects school districts from southern Ohio and Appalachia.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Chesapeake Union Exempted Village School District

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DOUG HALE
Superintendent

LEE ELLIOTT
Treasurer

House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education (HB 33)

March 23, 2023

Chair Richardson, Ranking Member Isaccohn and Members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education, thank you for the opportunity to provide this public testimony regarding House Bill 33.

I am Doug Hale, Superintendent of Chesapeake Exempted Village School District which educates 1300 students in the southern Appalachian area of Lawrence County. I have been a public educator for 42 years. I am here to say with great PRIDE, my life's path has put me in contact with great people to work with and work for in my time in public education. Today my path has brought me here with you. It's my honor to stand here before you. It has been a wonderful ride. Today is as important as any day in my professional career.

I want to thank you for your one time spending of federal funds (ESSER). They were used to fund our summer school programs, afterschool programs, additional staffing and provide one to one chromebooks for each Chesapeake student. You gave it and we used it. We didn't sit on it. We used it wisely to improve our educational delivery to our students and community.

Prior to ESSER funds, large projects like our High School roof project would need financing to reduce our financial burden. Our building maintenance issues are rising. Our elementary school boiler needs replaced (\$295,754.00) and our Middle School Boiler needs replaced at a cost of \$293,000.00. These are impactful costs to our general fund. These costs take away our ability to take student class trips to experience cultural events in Columbus, these costs take away from our ability to take student groups to a restaurant where the students can order from a menu. Most of our students have never had the opportunity to do this with their family. Little space for business and or/residential expansion exists in Chesapeake and new tax revenue streams in the District are almost non-existent.

We have multiple staff members, including our High School Principal filling in as a janitor for a few weeks last year. When this happens our staff's ability to provide great service is hindered. Chesapeake students deserve to receive the same attention from a counselor or teacher that other schools get. The only way for this to happen is to have the resources to hire more staff at a competitive salary to retain this staff.

Most of our Chesapeake students do not come from families with great resources, so things other schools take for granted, like being able to buy lunches on field trips and purchasing athletic gear become real-life barriers for students at Chesapeake. The fact is it is more expensive to provide the same opportunities to students who come from Appalachia backgrounds. The only way we're going to change their future prospects is to give them an

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education that at least puts them on a more level playing field. Our students are just as brave, as smart, as innovative, as loyal, as committed and as talented as other students in the state of Ohio. They just don't get the resources they need.

I urge you to support the base cost increase and phasing in the Fair School Funding formula for the next four years with the FY 2022 information. By doing so, it would give the Chesapeake School District the stability to hire and plan for the future. We accomplish a lot with what we are given, but we will have the ability to provide more opportunities for our students if the Fair School Funding formula is approved in HB 33. Let's be fair and smart as we move forward. This will allow us the resources to hire the certified and non certified staff we need to make lasting investments for our students and community. It means so much to our students and staff to be Chesapeake Panther. I have mentioned the word community several times, because at Chesapeake there is a commitment to the value of helping your neighbor. We collectively work with and alongside our community to educate our K-12 students.

I speak on behalf of our Chesapeake Staff, parents, students, and community members. We love Chesapeake and we want our students to excel and have opportunities during their K-12 experiences and as young adults. By approving the Fair School Funding formula, the opportunity increases not only for Chesapeake students but all Appalachian and Urban Schools.

Thank you Madam Chair Richardson, Ranking Member Isaccsohn and other subcommittee members for the opportunity to provide testimony. Chesapeake is looking forward to a positive outcome for HB 33.

Doug Hale
Chesapeake Exempted Village Superintendent
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