

26 March 2023

To: Ohio House of Representatives, Ways and Means Committee
Chair: Representative Bill Roemer

Dear Representative Bill Roemer,

I am presenting my written testing on H.B. 1 and request that it might be included as part of public testimony during the hearing on March 28 to discuss this damaging and regressive bill.

I write to respectfully voice my opposition to H.B. 1, a bill that would replace Ohio's graduate income tax with a 2.75% flat tax on income over \$26,050. I live in Oxford in Butler County and my daughter attends the Talawanda School District. Communities like Oxford and surrounding townships would suffer financial hardship if HB 1 is passed by the General Assemble and signed by Governor DeWine into law.

The flat tax proposal cuts the resources of the many for the benefit of the very few. It is a tax cut for the rich, while it guts the resources of our schools and local government. H.B. 1 would destroy the Oxford community and the Talawanda School District. Talawanda specifically would experience a funding deficit that would fall back on the community of approximately \$1.35M annually. It would place even more pressure on our admirable and incredibly competent school district. HB 920 (Constitutional law) would force the local taxpayers for TSD to pick up that tab. This would be on top of whatever financial deficit the City of Oxford also faces for services such as Senior Services, First Responders, etc.

Despite the best efforts of devoted parents, staff, and teachers, citizens in our district voted against a tax levy to increase school funding in November of 2022. Local taxpayers are increasingly upset about the current funding model. And the Talawanda School District is no exception. Levies are failing across the state and taxpayers are fed up. H.B. 1 finds support by claiming to be a tax cut. However, it is only a tax cut for the rich. The service that my community and my school district depend on, especially well supported education services, will be cut.

I am especially frustrated by the damage this bill will cause to my school district. The Talawanda School District is providing meaning education and services to the children in our community. Now, this bill will tie its hands behind its back. In short, this bill will ruin our community and schools.

I will be certain to never vote a state legislator who votes for this bill. Please do your job, fund public education and support our communities.

Sincerely yours,

Pepper Stetler, parent and citizen
Talawanda School
Butler County District
Oxford, Ohio