

Testimony To Ways and Means Committee on HB1

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Merrin, Ranking Member Troy, and other members of the committee, I respectfully submit the following testimony regarding HB1.

I am not able to attend the committee meeting in person but ask that you accept this written testimony.

I have reviewed the bill as submitted, the LSC fiscal notes, and testimony from various organizations and individuals.

After considering all of the above, I OPPOSE passage of HB1.

As the LSC fiscal notes show and others have testified, this bill is extremely expensive and will significantly increase taxes on property owners.

The reduced state income tax rates will greatly reduce state revenue coffers. With less state revenue, it is inevitable that funding to schools and local governments will be reduced.

Reduced state funding to schools and local governments, means that schools and local governments will need to pass many new property tax levies to fund their operations.

The changes to property tax laws will even further increase taxes on property owners. The elimination of the 10% rollback will immediately increase taxes on property owners. The reduction in assessed percentage will have various effects depending upon the type of levies as various organizations have already testified.

This bill contradicts the orders of the Ohio Supreme Court in the DeRolph school funding case to reduce the "overreliance on property taxes" in fulfilling the Ohio Constitution obligation to provide a "system of thorough and efficient schools".

Furthermore, as you know, a flat tax is more regressive than the current graduated income tax. This raises taxes on lower and middle class Ohioans and provides greater benefit to the wealthiest individuals.

All in all, this seems to be a windfall to probably your largest campaign contributors and a big loss to the average Ohioan.

I request that you vote NO on HB1.

I would be happy to answer any questions via the email below.

Thank you,

John Gray