



Columbiana

EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

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House Ways and Means Committee HB 1 - Opponent Testimony

Columbiana Exempted Village School District
Dr. Donald Mook, Superintendent
March 27, 2023

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Merrin, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on House Bill (HB) 1.

My name is Dr. Donald Mook, and I serve as the Superintendent for the Columbiana Exempted Village School District in Columbiana and Mahoning Counties. The Columbiana Exempted Village Schools are located in Columbiana on the northern border of Columbiana County. The District includes all of the city of Columbiana as well as parts of Fairfield, Beaver, and Springfield Twps. in both Columbiana and Mahoning Counties, an area of approximately 18 square miles. The district consists of three schools: Columbiana High School, South Side Middle School and Joshua Dixon Elementary. The district serves about 1,050 students PreK-12.

The Columbiana Exempted Village School District opposes HB 1 because it results in a significant tax increase for residential and agricultural taxpayers, as well as a loss in local tax revenue for schools and local governments. According to the Fiscal Note from the Legislative Service Commission (LSC), the following changes will occur from a statewide perspective as a result of HB 1:

1. **\$929 million annual tax increase for residential and agricultural property taxpayers;**
2. **\$157 million annual tax decrease for business and commercial property taxpayers; and**
3. **\$538 million annual decrease in local tax revenues for schools and local governments.**

The specific fiscal impact of HB 1 on the Columbiana Exempted Village School District is a loss of **(\$110,175.00)**. The total HB1 loss for Columbiana County Schools is **(\$1,243,935.00)**. Every public school district in Columbiana County will sustain significant impacts to their school budgets including our small rural district. This type of loss is devastating to small school budgets. This is not a “one and done” cut to our budget. It has a compounding effect. Our district is at the 20 mil floor. We operate within our lowest local property tax rate established by law. The City of Columbiana has implemented a 100%, 15 year Community Reinvestment Area for its entire residential area eliminating our ability to realize new construction property revenues. New construction was a great source of growth for our revenues, and it has come to a virtual halt. Additionally, the district has school buildings that are aging without support from the state or community to revitalize. We have failed three (3) school bond issues to fix failing buildings in my tenure. And at present time, the district has zero renewable levies. We are operating at a bare minimum, efficiently and effectively. HB1 will harm our school system and hurt the education currently provided.

Chair Roemer and members of the committee, thank you for your time, and I sincerely hope that you will consider the impact HB 1 on our school and the other public schools in our region. Please feel free to contact my office or the office of our treasurer for any further discussion.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald Mook". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" at the beginning.

Dr. Donald Mook
Superintendent of Schools