

Ohio House Ways and Means Committee

HB 1

Opposition Testimony

April 17, 2023

Written-Only Testimony

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Merrin, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill (HB) 1. I am Richard Smith, school board member with Marysville EVSD, Marysville, Ohio. I am offering **Opposition Testimony** as this legislative proposal will have a detrimental impact on our school district.

For the sake of brevity, I will refer you to the testimony offered on March 28, 2023 by the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA), the Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) and the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) for details of the financial impact HB 1 will have on school districts such as Marysville EVSD. I will address another issue here.

For years, this legislative body has practiced careful management of taxpayer dollars by proper oversight and a watchful eye on spending. On numerous occasions, this body has taken efforts to lower the taxes to lessen the financial burden on citizens of this Ohio. While these efforts have been well received, the Legislature needs to be mindful of the Constitutional responsibilities it has to fulfill.

Ohio's Constitution states:

Article VI, Section 2 | Schools funds  
Ohio Constitution/Article VI Education  
Effective:1851

The General Assembly shall make such provisions, by taxation, or otherwise, as, with the income arising from the school trust fund, will secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state; but no religious or other sect, or sects, shall ever have any exclusive right to, or control of, any part of the school funds of this state.

**I urge this Committee to recommend to the full House of Representatives that the Fair School Funding Plan be fully funded and the inputs be updated to 2022 numbers before addressing tax reform or tax cuts as proposed by HB 1.** Please fulfill your Constitutional responsibilities. Your public schools and local taxpayers will benefit and will appreciate your actions.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Smith

Marysville EVSD

Board Member, Legislative Liaison