



House Ways and Means Committee

House Bill 335

Molly Snodgrass, Concerned Parent in Big Walnut Local School District

June 18, 2025

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

Thank you for considering my written testimony on House Bill 335 today. My name is Molly Snodgrass and I am a parent of two children in the Big Walnut Local School District in Delaware County, Ohio. Delaware County has been the fastest-growing county in Ohio for quite some time, and Big Walnut is poised to see continued growth, given its location and surplus of developable land. The Big Walnut Local School District must therefore be extremely diligent in its fiscal planning and have a clear focus on addressing the needs of a growing district over the short-, medium-, and long-term horizon.

Much to my dismay, I found out just in the past couple of days how devastating some of the provisions contained in House Bill 335 would be to Big Walnut Local Schools in its effort to maintain fiscal stability while managing growth. In our Board of Education meeting on Monday, June 16th, it was explained how the elimination of "inside millage" would mean an \$8,100,000 annual loss in revenue for Big Walnut. That is roughly 15% of its annual operating budget, and equivalent to approximately 85 full-time teaching positions. HB 335 provides no solution to address the near immediate loss of such significant funding. It essentially amounts to making a drastic policy change at the state level and just letting the local government entities (school districts, cities, counties) "figure it out". That is not sound policy-making, it is pulling the rug out from under local governments, standing idly when they fall, and not even offering a hand to help them up.

My two sons do not deserve to have their schools chronically underfunded by the state, requiring local residents to foot the vast majority of our school district (Big Walnut is funded over 81% from local sources)—and then have the state pass harmful legislation such as this. My sons do not deserve an Ohio that passes short-sighted legislation aiming to solve one problem but creating two others.

The state legislature has had YEARS to address and improve the overall issue of property taxes in Ohio. Trying to pass an overhaul of property tax law with virtually no impact analysis, no alternatives provided, and no time or opportunity for Ohio residents to weigh in, is misguided at best and diabolical at worst.

Please do not move HB 335 or any of its provisions forward—through the HB 96 budget process or out of Committee to the House—without ample time for evaluation and public comment.

Thanks you,
Molly Snodgrass
Sunbury, Ohio