

House Ways and Means Committee

June 17, 2025

Opponent Testimony - HB 335

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Troy, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 335. I appreciate the General Assembly's recognition that Ohio's property tax system is in need of reform. Taxpayer concerns are real, and it is our shared responsibility to pursue thoughtful, balanced solutions. However, as currently written, HB 335 would do far more harm than good to our communities, particularly to Ohio's public schools.

By eliminating the ability to levy inside millage, HB 335 removes a foundational and stable source of local revenue that school districts rely on to operate. Without this steady funding, districts will face increased financial uncertainty and be forced to return to the ballot repeatedly just to sustain basic services. Over time, residents will be burdened by frequent levy requests from their local schools, municipalities, and counties, resulting in higher taxes simply to maintain existing levels of services.

We all support a tax system that is fair, transparent, and responsive to the needs of our communities. However, reform should not come at the expense of our children's education. School funding in Ohio is already fragile in many places. This bill would make it worse, not better. If enacted, HB 335 will cause districts to cut programs, lay off staff, default on bond obligations, and continually seek new tax approvals from already tax fatigued voters.

I respectfully urge the committee to pause and reconsider the approach taken in HB 335. A more deliberate process, one that includes meaningful input from educators, local government officials, and taxpayers, is essential to crafting property tax reform that is both effective and equitable. Together, we can address concerns about fairness and transparency without dismantling the funding structure our schools and communities depend on.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to Ohio's future.

Tiera Moore, President, Kent City Schools Board of Education