

Testimony of

Ryan Stechschulte, Treasurer / Chief Financial Officer  
Toledo Public Schools  
Before the Ohio House Ways & Means Committee  
Regarding House Bill 335  
September 30, 2025

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

My name is Ryan Stechschulte, and I'm the Treasurer/CFO for Toledo Public Schools. We serve just over 20,000 students — kids who depend on us every single day.

I understand the intent behind HB 335. We all want property tax policy that is fair and predictable for Ohio families. But as it's written, this bill would have some very serious consequences for our district, and for students across the state.

At TPS, we are committed to making student-centered decisions that ensure every child receives the education and support they need to succeed in school and in life. House Bill 335 threatens our ability to do just that

Let me briefly highlight what concerns us most.

First, the bill would take away our ability to renew emergency levies. For Toledo, that's a \$15.7 million levy that has been renewed by voters again and again since 1998. It pays for teachers, textbooks, transportation — the basics. If we lose the ability to renew it, we're looking at a huge hole in our budget that we simply can't fill without cutting staff and services.

Second, it eliminates inside millage and takes away flexibility we use to handle rising costs like special education, transportation, and utilities. These are things we can't just stop paying for.

Third, it gives county budget commissions the power to cut back voter-approved levies if they think our fund balance is too high. As a CFO, I can tell you: we keep those reserves because bond markets, auditors, and the state itself require it. Penalizing us for being fiscally responsible just doesn't make sense.

And finally, it allows counties to create homestead exemptions without any reimbursement from the state. That shifts costs to us and reduces what we can spend on students.

So what does all of this mean in real life for Toledo Public Schools?

It means larger class sizes. It means fewer electives and fewer support services for kids who need them most. It means less stability in planning for the future. And maybe most importantly, it takes away local control from our community and our voters — the very people who have consistently stepped up to support our schools for decades.

Statewide, we're talking about a \$1.5 billion revenue hit. That's the equivalent of nearly 20,000 teachers. For Toledo, it's around \$11 million — enough to change the face of our classrooms in ways none of us want to see.

So while I appreciate the goals behind HB 335, I have to ask you to look at the unintended consequences. It's about the students who will feel the effects of fewer teachers, fewer programs, and fewer opportunities.

We respectfully urge you to:

- Reject HB 335 in its current form;
- Preserve constitutionally guaranteed revenue sources like inside millage;
- Protect the authority of voters to renew levies they already approved;
- Collaborate with education, business, and community leaders on a balanced approach that modernizes Ohio's tax system without dismantling the foundation of public education

Toledo Public Schools is committed to fiscal responsibility, academic achievement, and equitable opportunity for every student. HB 335 would reverse years of progress, destabilize our schools, and harm the communities we serve.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 335 and instead take the time to develop a collaborative solution that provides meaningful tax relief while protecting the future of Ohio's children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ryan Stechschulte  
Treasurer / Chief Financial Officer  
Toledo Public Schools