



WARREN LOCAL SCHOOLS

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Kyle Newton
SUPERINTENDENT

Melcie Wells
TREASURER

House Ways and Means House Bill 335

**Warren Local School District, Washington County
Melcie Wells, Treasurer
Kyle Newton, Superintendent**

October 15, 2025

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 335. My name is Melcie Wells, and I serve as the Treasurer/CFO of Warren Local School District in Washington County. Additionally, Kyle Newton is jointly submitting this testimony as the Superintendent of Warren Local Schools.

First, we want to recognize the genuine concern our communities have about rising property taxes. Like you, we believe it's essential to find responsible, balanced solutions that ease the burden on taxpayers while keeping our schools strong and stable.

HB 335 would have a very real impact on the 2,100 students we serve at Warren Local. By restricting local revenue growth, it limits our ability to provide the programs, staff, and supports our students need to succeed. Our district has worked hard to be both responsible and effective—we spend less than \$13,000 per student, maintain a carryover balance under 40%, and still earned a 4-star rating on the state report card. We're proud of that balance between efficiency and excellence, but this bill would make it increasingly difficult to sustain the quality of education and opportunities our students deserve. In practical terms, it shifts more of the burden onto local communities already facing rising costs, while reducing our capacity to invest in our kids' futures.

This proposal risks undermining our ability to focus on what matters most: preparing students for success in literacy, math, workforce readiness, and beyond.

We respectfully urge the committee to consider alternatives that protect taxpayers while preserving the stability schools need to educate Ohio's children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.