

Nardonia Hills City School District

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House Ways and Means House Bill 335

**Nardonia Hills City School District, Summit County, Ohio
Casey Wright, Superintendent and Kyle Kiffer, Treasurer/CFO
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.

We are Casey Wright, Superintendent, and Kyle Kiffer, Treasurer/CFO for the Nardonia Hills City School District in Summit County.

First, we want to acknowledge that we all share the same goal — providing relief to taxpayers while maintaining strong, stable public services. Rising property taxes are a concern for families across Ohio, and school districts understand that concern firsthand. However, House Bill 335, as written, poses a serious risk to the financial stability of districts like ours.

The bill's restrictions on inside millage growth would limit our ability to keep up with inflation and rising operating costs. For Nardonia Hills, this means fewer resources to address student needs, classroom materials, safety and security upgrades, and competitive compensation for staff.

We serve roughly 3,200 students in Summit County, and like many districts, we are already absorbing increases in health insurance, utilities, and special education costs that rise faster than our revenue base.

Over the last three years, we have met our budget challenges head-on. We have reduced 30 positions through attrition, a targeted reduction in force, and an employee buyout. These actions have saved millions of dollars in our operating budget — all while our taxpayers voted to approve a levy that we asked for only the millage that was needed, not wanted. We've demonstrated fiscal restraint, transparency, accountability, and a data-driven approach to student needs in every decision we've made.

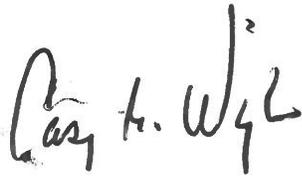
If inside millage is capped, the financial pressure will not disappear — it will simply shift to our local tax base. It shifts from predictable, gradual growth that can be responsibly forecasted to larger and more frequent levies, which are costly, time-consuming, and unpredictable. That approach doesn't reduce the financial burden; it just moves it further down the road and makes it heavier when it returns.

At Nardon Hills, we've made difficult but responsible decisions to live within our means. We've consolidated services, improved energy performance, and maintained a focus on long-term fiscal health. We are proud to have earned the Auditor of State's Award with Distinction for the integrity of our financial reporting. But as costs continue to rise, House Bill 335 would make it increasingly difficult to maintain that balance of fiscal discipline and educational excellence.

Our goal is not to resist reform. We hope instead to ensure that reform does not unintentionally undermine Ohio's schools. We respectfully ask the committee to consider approaches that protect taxpayers while preserving the fiscal stability schools need to educate students effectively.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Casey Wright in black ink.

Casey Wright, Superintendent

Handwritten signature of Kyle Kiffer in black ink.

Kyle Kiffer, Treasurer/CFO