



**House Ways and Means
House Bill 335**

**Hudson City School District, Summit County
Phillip D Butto IV, Treasurer
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 Phillip Butto, and I serve as the Treasurer/CFO of Hudson City School District in Summit County.

First, I want to emphasize that I agree with you that we need responsible, balanced solutions that provide relief to taxpayers without destabilizing schools.

HB 335 limits local revenue growth from inside millage. For districts like mine, this will result in a significant reduction in much needed revenue and it will impact a loss of student programming at Hudson City Schools. Hudson is an affluent school district in Summit County and, as such, is and always will be on the state funding guarantee. We receive very little to no growth in state foundation funding, and reductions in our commercially based property taxes result in the 86% of the tax burden falling on the backs of our residents. Hudson prides itself on stretching its dollars, going from 2010 to 2023 with no additional operating levies. We accomplished this by making strategic budgetary changes to efficiently monitor and reduce spending. We were also able to do this because we relied on small inflationary revenue increases on our 4.23 inside mills. For example, as a result of the property tax reappraisal in 2020, Hudson received a funding increase of \$296,000. While this only represented an increase of less than ½% in operating funding, for a guarantee district that receives no other inflationary funding increases, this was material and significant. There are now close to 200 districts on the state funding guarantee that rely on these small inside millage increases that occur every three years. There are Cities, Villages, and Counties that also rely on this funding. Placing a 3% cap on inside millage will put Hudson City Schools Back on the levy ballot sooner than expected and will result in an INCREASE in property taxes. Just like the reduction of Personal Tangible Taxes, and Public Utility Taxes, and reductions in the State Share of Foundation funding, this will continue to shift the tax burden to local residents. Please reconsider this bill as it will ultimately result in statewide damage to public education. I 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. I am happy to answer any questions.

PHILLIP D. BUTTO IV, TREASURER/CFO

