

Laura Jones, Hudson Board of Education. Good evening, Senators. I am here to talk to you about the 30% carryover cap on school funding and how it will impact my district. As many of you know, the Hudson City School District is a high achieving school district. Hudsonites consider it a great source of pride and say over and over again that they moved to Hudson “for the schools”. It truly is the cornerstone of our community.

Like every school in Ohio, my district works hard to manage our finances, remain transparent with the community about spending and educate the voters about the need for new funding when it is time for a new operating levy. Hudson voters have consistently trusted and supported the district, just passing a new levy in 2023.

The new tax dollars voted in allows us to plan for the foreseeable future and budget for upcoming operational needs. This was our first levy in 12 years, and that length of time is, in part, to the strong work of the district and the support of our stakeholders and voters. Our goals will be to always be transparent with our financing, and to also stretch our taxpayer’s dollar for as long as we can. This pending cap will limit our ability to do that.

Adding this carryover cap takes away our ability to plan far out into the future. It also takes the right away from our voters who approved those tax dollars to support a school they trust, believe in and consistently cheer on. Our students are achieving at all ages and at all abilities. We are so proud of all that they do.

I again ask you to support the 87% of Ohio students who attend public schools and forgo any amount of a carry over cap. We are fine with legislation requiring districts to tell their financial stories, but it is troubling for many for legislation to remove funding that was approved by the community. In our minds, the cap is not a property tax savings; it simply changes a district’s and community’s ability to work through that event together.