

**Budget Testimony -Senate Education Committee**  
**Interested Party Testimony**  
**Tiffany deSilva, MSW, LSW**

Chairman Brenner, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Tiffany deSilva, and I am a Licensed Social Worker, School Board Member, and parent in the Dublin City School District. I am submitting this written testimony on my own behalf as a private citizen.

First, thank you for your service and commitment to prioritizing the education and wellbeing of Ohio students. Creating a budget and funding that meets the needs of students and the school districts that serve them is a complex process.

Dublin parents and community members value high quality public education and consistently support our schools through the passage of voted levies.

Unfortunately, the cap on cash carryover as proposed in the current state budget structure would result in a loss of \$23 million in locally approved tax revenue for Dublin City Schools. This loss in revenue is approximately equivalent to 4.24 mills, more than half of the 7.9 mill operating levy voted on and passed by Dublin City Schools voters in November 2023.

Our local community values local decision-making and the financial stability of our schools. Dublin City Schools has carefully maintained reserves which allow the district to address inflation, the rising costs of salaries and benefits, and unforeseen expenses. The loss of tax revenue due to the carryover cap would diminish these reserves.

The district's bond ratings could also be negatively impacted, increasing borrowing costs for future capital projects, and thereby increasing costs to taxpayers. Proudly, Dublin City Schools is one of the few districts with a "AAA" rating from S&P. A "AAA" demonstrates a strong capacity to meet financial commitments and is the highest credit rating assigned. This highest-level rating requires a carefully maintained cash reserve.

Additionally, the cap on carryover would mean that districts would need to return to the ballot more frequently to seek funding through levies. This would create additional burdens for taxpayers over time and contribute to financial instability. The increased frequency of levies would diminish the district's ability to plan long-term and lead to voter fatigue, which would endanger local support and the funding the district relies on to provide services to students.

Therefore, I am asking the Senate to please remove the cap on cash carryover. This would allow locally funded school districts to maintain financial stability, effectively serve students, maintain the local support of taxpayers, and avoid increasing levy requests.

Thank you for your time, thoughtful consideration, and service to the students of Ohio.