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The Honorable Jerry C. Cirino
Senator, Ohio's 18th Senate District
1 Capitol Square, Room 127
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Cirino:

On behalf of the Cory-Rawson Local School district, it is my pleasure to provide a few items for your consideration House Bill 96 as it is currently written. While there are certainly many provisions of the bill that will serve both Ohio's kids and public schools, we are significantly concerned about the implications that the bill will have on school funding; particularly relating to the future of Fair School Funding as well as the proposed cap of 30% on carry-over balances.

First and foremost, our locally-elected board of education is comprised of five individuals who have lived in our community their entire lives and represent occupations such as farmer, accountant, small business owner. They are best-equipped to make decisions impacting the financial position of Cory-Rawson. Generally, a "one-size fits all" change in education funding and regulations is often not met with the best outcomes. However, the currently proposed carry over balance cap removes this local control from every community in Ohio. However, if the Ohio Senate is determined to retain a carry over balance policy we ask that the cap be removed and that each district be required to establish their own policy for carry over balances that establish both minimum and maximum thresholds.

Additionally, we ask that the Senate endeavor to preserve the principles embodied in the Fair School Funding plan even if inputs cannot be fully funded. FSF is currently the most effective and efficient way for the state to determine the costs to educate students across Ohio. As has been proposed, our district will have no reliable way to forecast beyond the state's biennial budget. There are already a number of variables in revenue and I ask that the lawmakers do their part in creating continuity and consistency for our schools.

Thank you for your consideration of these factors while developing Ohio's operating budget for the coming biennium.

Sincerely,

Jason Clark
Superintendent

Small school. Big opportunities.