

Bluffton Exempted Village Schools

102 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817-1293

(419)358-5901 FAX (419) 358-4871

Dr. Gregory J. Denecker, Superintendent

Mrs. Paula M. Parish, Treasurer

The Honorable Jerry C. Cirino

Senator, Ohio's 18th Senate District

1 Capitol Square, Room 127

Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Cirino -

On behalf of Bluffton Exempted Village Schools, it is my pleasure to provide a few items for your consideration regarding House Bill 96 as it is currently written.

First and foremost, Ohio's K-12 education structure relies on locally-elected school boards. We are a fiscally conservative district spending only \$12,143 per student in FY 24, while state average is \$16,311. However, our performance index on state assessments as a district is consistently in the top 10% of all schools in the state. Our effective millage rate is 22.8 mills and we have a .5% income tax for permanent improvements. Therefore, the reason for our carryover is from being able to balance giving our students an excellent education, while giving a bargain to our taxpayers.

However, the currently proposed carry over balance cap removes this local control from every community in Ohio, including Bluffton.

In addition, we ask that the Senate 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.

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

Sincerely,



Greg Denecker

Superintendent Bluffton Exempted Village Schools