

**Senate Local Government Committee
House Bill 335**

Toledo Public Schools, Lucas County

November 12, 2025

Chair O'Brien, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 335 which would cap growth on inside-millage revenue to inflation as measured by the GDP deflator. My name is Ryan S. Stechschulte, and I serve as the Treasurer/CFO of Toledo Public Schools in Lucas County.

Toledo Public Schools (TPS) serves nearly 20,000 students and operates on a lean budget that balances state aid, local levies, and a small portion of inside millage. That limited, natural growth is essential to extend levy cycles and avoid frequent ballot issues, ensuring predictable funding for students and taxpayers alike.

Key Concerns

1. HB 335 removes the only natural growth that offsets inflation. For Toledo Public Schools, this means larger class sizes. It means fewer electives and fewer support services for kids who need them most. It means less stability in planning for the future. Limiting that growth to 2-3% while expenses rise 4-6% a year will cause deficits to appear sooner, shortening levy life by one to two years and forcing earlier returns to the ballot.

2. It shifts—not reduces—taxpayer burden.

Capping inside-millage growth will lead to more frequent or larger levies, creating voter fatigue and long-term instability without providing real tax relief.

Conclusion

House Bill 335 would cap revenue, not costs. It would shorten levy cycles, reduce stability, and erode local fiscal flexibility for districts like Toledo.

We respectfully urge the Committee to reject or substantially amend HB 335 to preserve local control and protect the financial sustainability of Ohio's public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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