

Dear Mr. Chairman and honorable members of the finance committee,

My name is Angela Rosenberg and I write this testimony as a voter, property owner, taxpayer but most of all, as a mother of four beautiful young daughters who attend Hudson City School District. I am absolutely opposed to anymore loss of state funds to our school district. I find the proposed biennial budget for education unacceptable.

The state budget director testified that funding for education is a partnership between the local communities and the state. He feels the local communities need to supplement what the state won't give them. In my district, we aren't supplementing to increase the education of our children but actually doing the state's job and providing most of the funding by property taxes. As of today, the state only gives Hudson 20-23% of the \$5800 per pupil required to educate a child in Ohio. That means 77-80% of educational funding for my district comes from property taxes. The proposed formula will remove more state funding and increase the burden on local property owners. We will be losing more than \$2.9 million over the next two years. We are a fiscally responsible school district that has budgeted its money so that it will stretch longer and we won't have to go back to the taxpayers for at least two more years. When that time comes, we could use that levy to increase our revenue, create more programs and upgrade our aging buildings. We will now have to use it to make up the loss or we will need to decrease our standard of education that we provide. We are being forced to go backwards. It is the children who will have more classmates per teacher, less choices and opportunities and less pathways to unique learning. I am not exaggerating. I have witnessed it firsthand.

Four years ago, the state took \$5million away from Hudson. We could only pass a 4.9 mill levy and were unable to make up the difference. We had to lay off teachers, cancel programs and increase class sizes. When my oldest who is now in sixth grade was in the lower elementary schools, her class sizes were 20-22. My now First and Second grader are in class sizes of 25 and 26. My fifth grader, as well. Five years ago, a sixth grader could sample several foreign languages to help decide which one would be their focus for foreign language in seventh grade. Five years ago we had math and reading specialists in all the lower elementary classrooms assisting the teachers and helping the students who may be struggling or needed one on one instruction to understand a difficult concept. Then state funds were cut, we couldn't make up the total loss and had to do away with the programs. Programs my children will never have an opportunity to experience. You make think it sounds frivolous but it is programs like these, along with the rigorous math and language arts and extensive music and art programs (both which also took a hit with the loss of state funds) that creates a well-rounded child. A child that has options and avenues within his/her school district will thrive and be successful! That takes money! No matter how wonderful 'capacity' or 'ability' looks on paper, the reality is that you cannot make up the significant loss from the state with a property tax levy.

Hudson is a high performing, fiscally responsible school district who should be rewarded for its efforts at the state level, not punished. The Governor and state budget director has allocated over \$700 million for education. Money that is to be used for all Ohio's school districts. If the money is there, then there is no reason that the guarantee can't be continued and the loss of TPP washed. We do our job! We educate our children! When is the state going to recognize that and become our partner again? Do not allow some paper formula to hurt Ohio's children. Please don't vote on a budget that removes state money from Hudson City School District or any Ohio District.

Thank you!