

Good Morning Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Shuring, Ranking Member Driehaus and honorable members of the finance committee,

My name is Angela Rosenberg and I am here to testify today as a business owner, 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 parts of House Bill 64 still unacceptable.

The state budget director testified to you in February 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 now be losing more than \$1.8 million over the next two years. We are a fiscally responsible school district that has budgeted its money received from the state and local level so that it will stretch longer and we won't have to go back to the local taxpayers for at least two more years. In two years, we could use that new levy to increase our operating revenue, create more programs and upgrade our aging buildings. If the state removes more money from our budget, we will have to use a new levy to make up the loss, if that levy passes, 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 because the state had no rainy day fund. We couldn't make up the loss with a property tax levy. We had to lay off teachers, cancel programs and increase class sizes. When my oldest was in the lower elementary schools, her class sizes were 20-22. Now my three youngest are in class sizes of 25 and 26. Five years ago, a sixth grader could sample several foreign languages to help decide which one would be their focus for foreign language in 7th 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 economic crisis occurred, 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 may think it sounds frivolous but it is programs like these, along with the rigorous math, language arts and extensive music and art programs that creates a well-rounded child and helps that child succeed. We are a district that takes that philosophy seriously but it 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 and keep these programs.

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 have allocated over \$700 million for education. Money that is to be used for all Ohio's school districts. Since the money is there, our state funding can remain the same. The revenue generated from the CAT tax or any other state tax can easily replace the revenue that was being generated from the old TPP. You don't need to strip us of

more money. We do our job! We educate our children! We need what funding we receive to continue doing that job.

I want to thank you for your effort to put the education of all Ohio's children first. I heard that no district will lose their basic state aid. For that, I applaud you. Unfortunately, 93 districts are still losing money to educate their children. Hudson is one of them. We are slated to lose the money because "the paper formula" has deemed us too wealthy. By voting to remove money from my school district, this is what you are saying to our citizens.....You are too wealthy to have the TPP washed and replaced with CAT Tax or other state revenue. You are so wealthy that we expect you to pass a property tax levy without a problem in order to make up the difference. You are so wealthy that this legislature feels that you should educate your own children and expect very little help from the state. You are so wealthy that this legislature feels you can pay the business and income tax but you won't receive much benefit from it. I want to remind you that as of today, the Hudson community is already paying 80% and the state is only paying 20%. If you vote to remove the phantom TPP money without replacing it with other state revenue like you are doing for many districts, the state contribution to educate the 4600 students in Hudson goes below 20%. How does that align with our constitution of being thorough and efficient?

I hope in the upcoming days, a new effort will happen and you will find a way to stop the loss of revenue that was generated from TPP. This is a threat that still looms over several school districts, including Hudson. Taking that sizable amount of money out of our budget or any budget will do more harm than good for our children and that is not what Ohio is all about!

Thank you!