

**House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education
House Bill 1 - Proponent Testimony**

**Maria Rellinger, Treasurer/CFO
Apollo Career Center**

March 1, 2021

Chair Richardson, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill (HB) 1, the Fair School Funding Plan. My name is Maria Rellinger and I am the Treasurer/CFO of the Apollo Career Center in Lima, Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

I present this testimony not only representing my support for House Bill 1, but with the support of 215 school district leaders, including board members, superintendents, treasurers/CFOs and other school district officials from 126 school districts in the Northwest Ohio region. You can view the full list of those who support the goals, concepts and objectives of this testimony at the end of this document.

Apollo Career Center, along with the joint vocational school districts across the state, provides career technical education for students, supporting Ohio's workforce development. Ohio employers have thousands of positions that are unfilled because of a lack of qualified candidates. Career centers, comprehensive districts, and compacts that have career technical programs are able to provide trained individuals who are prepared to enter the workforce upon graduation. Ohio's career technical education programming provides flexibility to meet the needs of these employers. Providing career technical education costs more than a traditional classroom education due to additional supply, material and equipment costs. In addition, the need to recruit/hire instructors with private industry experience in a career technical field contributes to higher salary costs.

I appreciate the commitment of the Fair School Funding Plan work group over the past three years. The research and development of a school funding system that is fair to all school districts, reflective of the actual cost to provide a basic education for students, explainable to and understandable by taxpayers, and predictable for long term planning is welcomed by the education community.

The work group, consisting of superintendents and treasurers working with legislators from both parties, has defined a plan that is supported by a vast majority of the school districts across the state. The dedication of this group went above and beyond to formulate a plan for what is best for kids. They selflessly did not focus on their individual districts or specific region of the state, instead they thought of Ohio students as a whole and crafted how to make sure every single student was funded for the education they deserve.

It took three years to finally reach a point where the legislature has a school funding bill to consider. It does not make sense to postpone this process any longer. For many of the past bienniums, school funding has been THE topic. The outcome resulted in tweaking a formula that has not worked for decades.

Finally, we have a long-term, thoughtful, well-researched and fair formula that is outlined in House Bill 1. Now is the time to pass the Fair Funding School Plan. Now is the time to provide a school funding framework that is fair to districts all across the state of Ohio. Now is the time to make sure that Ohio school children have the opportunity to obtain a high quality education no matter where they attend school.

I ask you, along with 215 school district leaders from Northwest Ohio, to come together and successfully pass House Bill 1. Thank you for your time and support of todays students and future generations to come.

Northwest Region

Craig Kupferberg, Superintendent, Allen County ESC
Karla Wireman, Treasurer, Allen County ESC
Cathy Doseck, Treasurer, Anna Local Schools
Jenny Moneghan, Assistant Treasurer, Anthony Wayne Local Schools
Jim Fritz, Superintendent, Anthony Wayne Local Schools
Kerri Johnson, Treasurer, Antony Wayne Local Schools
Kristine Stuart, Treasurer/CFO, Antwerp Local Schools
Martin Miller, Superintendent, Antwerp Local Schools
Keith Horner, Superintendent, Apollo Career Center
Angie Spridgeon, Treasurer/CFO, Arcadia Local Schools
Jayson Selgo, Superintendent, Archbold Area Schools
Christine Ziegler, Treasurer/CFO, Archbold Local Schools
Shawn Brown, Superintendent, Auglaize County ESC
Abby Sharp, CFO/Treasurer, Ayersville Local Schools
Augusta Niese, High School Counselor, Ayersville Local Schools
Charlotte Ondrus, Retired Teacher, Ayersville Local Schools
David Kern, Board of Education Member, Ayersville Local Schools
Don Diglia, Superintendent, Ayersville Local Schools
Kelly Zachrich, teacher, Ayersville Local Schools
Rich Dackin, Superintendent, Bath Local Schools
Kim Schubert, Superintendent, Bellevue City Schools
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Paula Parish, Treasurer, Bluffton Exempted Village Schools
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Francis Scruci, Superintendent, Bowling Green City Schools
Ginny Stewart, School Board President, Bowling Green City Schools
Jill Carr, School Board Member, Bowling Green City Schools
Nick Whittaker, Accounts Payable, Bowling Green City Schools
Ryan Myers, School Board Member, Bowling Green City Schools
Tracy Hovest, School Board Member, Bowling Green City Schools
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Karen Phillips, Treasurer CFO, Carey Exempted Village Schools
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Tom Sommer, Treasurer, Celina City Schools
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Meghan Rohde, Treasurer, Clyde Green Springs Exempted Village Schools
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Jennifer McCoy, Treasurer, Coldwater Exempted Village Schools
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Katelyn Adams, Treasurer, Continental Local Schools

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Kathy Mollenkopf, Superintendent, Crestview Local Schools Van Wert County
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Douglas Westrick, Superintendent, Delphos City Schools
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William Welker, Superintendent, Eastwood Local Schools
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Anthony Stevens, Superintendent, Edon Northwest Local Schools
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Timothy Coffman, Treasurer/CFO, EHOVE Career Center
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