



## Trumbull County NAACP

May 16, 2021

### Ohio House Bill 1

#### School Funding

**NAACP we are dedicated to eliminating the severe racial inequities that continue to plague our education system. Our ultimate goal is that every student of color receives a fair and equitable education.**

#### Our Challenge

In the last century, our nation expanded access to school for poor and minority children. The NAACP's leadership and advocacy around the *Brown v. Board of Education* case opened the possibilities for a more equitable, exemplary education system for all. We were able to lead by educating about one in four of our students well enough for them to attend—if not finish—college. In a knowledge-based economy, however, excluding three fourths of our students from higher education is no longer acceptable. The time for tinkering and small-scale experimentation is over.

#### Our Concerns

For the average citizen, perhaps the most accessible point of entry is at the local level. Property tax dollars drive most school spending. Almost immediately, then, the deck is stacked to favor children living and attending schools in wealthier communities. On average, African Americans and Latinos earn less and own fewer homes than their white counterparts. Their neighborhoods are often segregated. Consequently, the cities and counties in which students of color live typically have adequate tax bases overall, but the segregated communities of African-American and Latino students receive fewer resources.

Because a school's resources impact its ability to recruit and retain the most sought-after teachers, schools serving lower income students are often left with less effective teachers to teach students who are struggling the most. This situation results more often in students of color being taught by less experienced teachers and less resources allocated to improve the overall quality of education.

Funding via the proposed bill would include funding for Profit schools. NAACP supports public schools and the allocation be evenly distributed to those entities. For Profit schools should and must be held to the same standards that are required for Public schools if they are to received funding.

#### Support of HB 1

The Ohio Legislative branch has been working on the revision to fund schools since the 1990's when the current structure was found to be unconstitutional.

The passing of this Bill would allow a public education system where every child has opportunities to gain the social, economic, and cultural and political capital necessary to realize their full potential to support their future families and give back to society. All students must be assured of the robust enforcement of our nation's civil rights and education laws and freedom from discrimination. Education should be the great equalizer, leveling the playing field for all children.

Annette McCoy

Trumbull County NAACP President