



WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 11-7-2021

Name: Jeff Dornbusch

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Organization Representing: Port Clinton City Schools

Testifying on Bill Number: H.B. No. 126

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: _____

Board of Education

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419.734.4527 fax

Port Clinton High School

821 S. Jefferson Street
Port Clinton, OH 43452
419.734.2147
419.734.4276 fax

Port Clinton Middle School

807 S. Jefferson Street
Port Clinton, OH 43452
419.734.4448
419.734.4440 fax

Bataan Memorial

Intermediate Elementary

525 W. Sixth Street
Port Clinton, OH 43452
419.734.3931
419.734.3705 fax

Bataan Memorial

Primary Elementary

575 W. Sixth Street
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419.734.2815
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Testimony of Jeff Dornbusch on H.B. 126

November 10, 2021

Chairman Blessing and members of the Senate and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written opposition testimony on House Bill (HB) 126. My name is Jeff Dornbusch, Treasurer of Port Clinton City Schools, Port Clinton Ohio.

This bill proposed is a great example of passing a new law that is burdensome, regulatory and at the end of the day, produces winners and losers regarding the taxes certain homeowners pay.

It appears the proposed bill is intended to limit a school's ability to challenge property values when there is a discrepancy between the current auditor's value and the current market value. The proposed legislation also appears to create new regulations and unnecessary additional burdens for the same purpose. Due to the makeup of our school district, we have many second homes and vacation homes that are often sold at amounts much larger than what is on the current county auditor's records.

Our locally elected Board of Education made a decision many years ago to challenge values when the sale price is greater than \$75,000 of what the auditor has on their books. It is our local Board of Education's belief that this is not only fair but contend we have an obligation to all of our taxpayers to share the tax liability fairly. This can be easily understood with our current emergency levy and our bond debt levy. Any increase that is approved works to lower the burden for other taxpayers in the district.

Another reason we oppose this bill is the Port Clinton City School District has lost over \$2,000,000 in State Funding over the past 10 years **WITHOUT** a reduction in student population. The new state funding formula basically holds us to the same level, without even an inflationary increase. Our current free/reduced rate for our elementary students stands at 50%.

We also oppose this bill because we see it as way to politicize the valuation process. No one likes to have their taxes increased and we see this bill as an attempt to pressure local boards to help reduce one taxpayer's real estate bill at the expense of the rest of

the property owners in the district. Every person that has their value challenged already receives notice and has the right to attend and contest their value at the board of revision hearing. Please also realize the same right to appeal exists for property owners who challenge the valuation of their property, and they exercise that right with regularity.

Each board member receives a list of complaints filed by our attorney (which is a fee for service agreement). Our attorney only files after we review this list with the board and superintendent. We file on each property, noting that no exceptions have been made to ensure consistency. We have filed on our own employees, our neighbors and our families. Each resident receives a letter from the school informing them why the school is filing the complaint. We have had meetings with our local realtors to explain this process so they can in turn share it with their clients to avoid any surprises.

I also happen to be a member of a board of education in my home district just ten miles away. In our county, 3 of the 4 districts challenge values above a threshold. Each district is unique and has an elected board to make these decisions on a local level. This is why we oppose new legislation that imposes additional regulations and overly burdensome rules as to how a local school should govern.

I am willing to discuss my opposition testimony at any time. My cell phone is 419-707-1200.

Sincerely,



Jeff Dornbusch