

Patrick Schymanski
Elida Local Schools: Board President and Legislative Liaison
Testimony to the House Education and Career Readiness Committee
Submitted for May 22, 2018 Hearing

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Slaby, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the Education and Career Readiness Committee. I do thank you for this opportunity to submit opposition testimony to HB200. I am Patrick Schymanski, Retired Quality Manager from General Dynamics, Land Systems Division, Lima Ohio. I am currently serving the Elida School Board as President and Legislative Liaison.

First, I would like to thank you for the support this committee has provide to public education. I know we disagree many times of funding, but, compared to other states in our great union, Ohio has provided enough support to stabilize school the financial situation for schools like Elida Local Schools. Even though I recognize that Ohio has increased its support for public education since 2012, I believe there is still room for more improvement. Elida, like many schools is still a "Capped" district and formula funding is limited to a percentage growth factor. Again, I need to make sure you know I do appreciate the funding increases we have received, our carryover balance has grown since 2012 from about 27 days to now over 80 days. Our financial situation has stabilized but we are still cautious and frugal debating any program or workforce additions, as we remain uncertain of our funding future.

This leads to my opposition to HB 200. The bill is estimated to provide up to 60,000 charters, initially, costing up to \$42 million. What concerns me the most is the growth potential in subsequent years. I believe in debate and this takes a significant amount of money from every future biennium budget debate. AS a friend of mine and fellow school board associate, Richard C. Smith from Marysville Exempted Village School District, eloquently pointed out, "... HB200 would create a new wedge in the pie of State Funding. Unless the pie gets bigger, and there are questions about that possibility, any new wedges creates downward pressure on the previous existing pieces...". Since revenues in the state have not met projections for the last several bienniums, I recommend prudence and not adding to our fiscal woes through well intended but impractical overreach.

I would be remiss if I didn't point out that our state constitution does require; "The General Assembly shall make such provision by taxation, or otherwise, as, with the income arising from the school trust fund, will secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools...". Since Elida is still a capped school and by our estimate would be receiving between \$1 and \$2 million each year, if the "Cap" was not in place. Without the Cap, we could consider expanding additional educational opportunities and worry less about Capital preservation. I urge you, as legislators, to look first to fund our existing obligations and then, in each budget cycle debate not only supporting alternate educational options but many other uses for this money, like improving Grand Lake in the Celina-St. Mary's area, the flooding of the Ottawa river in the Blanchard Valley area or even additional support to roads and bridge repair.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to express my opinion, I truly do appreciate this opportunity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Schymanski
President & Legislative Liaison
Elida Local School Board