

**Ohio House Finance Committee**  
**Substitute House Bill 305**  
**Proponent Testimony**  
**Maria, Rellinger, Treasurer/CFO, Apollo Career Center**  
**November 17, 2020**

Co-chairmen Oelslager and Callender, Vice-chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of substitute House Bill (HB) 305, 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 Sub H.B 305 and Senate Bill 376 (the companion bill in the Senate), but with the support of 104 school district leaders, including superintendents, treasurers/CFOs and other school district officials in the Northwest Ohio region who have signed on to this testimony. You can view the full list of those who support this testimony at the end of this document.

The Cupp-Patterson School Funding Work Group spent the past three years researching, creating, and simulating a school funding system that would be fair to all school districts, be reflective of the actual cost to provide a basic education for students, be explainable to and understandable by taxpayers, and be predictable for long term planning.

The Work Group, consisting of superintendents and treasurers working with legislators from both parties, has come up with a plan that is supported by a vast majority of superintendents and treasurers across the state. The respect and dedication of this group went above and beyond to formulate 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. In addition, 66 representatives co-sponsored House Bill 305 and 15 senators co-sponsored Senate Bill 376. That speaks volumes as to the support this bill has received across the state.

It took three years to finally be at the point where the legislature has school funding bills to consider. It does not make sense to postpone this any longer. Nor does it make sense to have a new funding formula introduced during the upcoming budget cycle. For many of the past bienniums, school funding has been a topic. The outcome has been tweaking a formula that has not worked for many decades because there has not been the time to fully study school funding in depth between the time a budget bill is introduced and approved. The work has finally been done and the support is necessary now to ensure the students benefit from this dedication.

Finally a long-term, thoughtful, well-researched and fair formula has been put forth with many months of providing information to legislators and school officials, discussing the details and merits, and modifying the formula to address concerns.

This is a standalone bill. During budget deliberations, the focus is on the entire state budget. This is rare opportunity to consider school funding on its own merit. Having a school funding framework prior to the budget process makes sense. The legislature then could focus on the other important pieces of the budget without having to again consider the enormous task of how to fund schools. This has been done with Sub. H.B. 305 and Senate Bill 376.

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 104 school district leaders from Northwest Ohio, to come together and successfully pass Sub H.B. 305 and Senate Bill 376. Thank you for your time and support of todays students and future generations to come.

#### **Northwest Ohio School District Leaders in Support of This Testimony**

Craig Kupferberg, Superintendent, Allen County Educational Service Center

Karla Wireman, Treasurer, Allen County Educational Service Center

Cathy Doseck, Treasurer, Anna Local Schools

Jenny Moneghan, Assistant Treasurer, Anthony Wayne Local Schools

Kerri Johnson, Treasurer, Antony Wayne Local Schools

Kristine Stuart, Treasurer/CFO, Antwerp Local Schools

Keith Horner, Superintendent, Apollo Career Center

Angie Spridgeon, Treasurer/CFO, Arcadia Local Schools

Shawn Brown, Superintendent, Auglaize County ESC

Don Diglia, Superintendent, Ayersville Local Schools

Abby Sharp, CFO/Treasurer, Ayersville Local Schools

Rich Dackin, Superintendent, Bath Local Schools

Kim Schubert, Superintendent, Bellevue City Schools

Jennifer Sudhoff, Treasurer, Benjamin Logan Local Schools

Cathy Schuller, Treasurer/CFO, Bowling Green City Schools

Nick Whittaker, Accounts Payable, Bowling Green City Schools

Mark Rairigh, Superintendent, Bryan City Schools

Kevin Schafer, Treasurer/CFO, Bryan City Schools

Darrin Hammock, Assistant Treasurer, Carey Exempted Village School

Karen Phillips, Treasurer CFO, Carey Exempted Village Schools

Thomas Sommer, Treasurer, Celina City Schools

Meghan Rohde, Treasurer, Clyde-Green Springs Exempted Village Schools

Dennis Haft, Superintendent, Clyde-Green Springs Exempted Village Schools

Jason Wood, Superintendent, Coldwater Exempted Village Schools

William Martin, Superintendent, Colonel Crawford Local Schools

Mark Ellerbrock, Treasurer, Columbus Grove Local

Katelyn Adams, Treasurer, Continental Local Schools

Jodi Gaietto, Superintendent Pro Tempore/HS Principal, Cory-Rawson Local Schools

Matthew Henderson, Superintendent, Crestline Exempted Village Schools

Ashley Whetsel, Treasurer, Crestview Local Schools (Van Wert Co)

Kermit Riehle, Superintendent, Edgerton Local Schools

Bill Blakely, Treasurer/CFO, Edgerton Local Schools

Timothy Coffman, Treasurer/CFO, EHOVE Career Center

Joel Parker, Treasurer/CPA, Elida Local Schools

LuAnn Vanek, Treasurer, Elmwood Local

Tony Borton, Superintendent, Elmwood Local Schools

Eric Smola, Superintendent, Evergreen Local Schools

Troy Roth, Superintendent, Findlay City Schools

Larry Brown, Superintendent, Fort Recovery Local Schools

Deanna Knapke, Treasurer, Fort Recovery Local Schools

Connie Nicely, Treasurer, Four County Career Center

Michael Ferguson, Superintendent, Genoa Area Local Schools

Bill Nye, Treasurer, Genoa Area Local Schools

John Kahmann, Treasurer/CFO, Gibsonburg Exempted Village Schools

Wesley Potter, Treasurer, Hardin Northern Local

Mike Ruen, Treasurer/CFO, Hicksville Exempted Village Schools

Kent Seemann, Treasurer, Holgate Local Schools

Randy Drewyor, Treasurer/CFO, Huron City Schools

Jim Witt, Superintendent, Lake Local Schools

Rob Peterson, Superintendent, Madison Local Schools

Diane Keegan, Treasurer, Margaretta Local Schools

Edward Kurt, Superintendent, Margaretta Local Schools

Paul Brotzki, Treasurer, Maumee City Schools

Kurt Wendel, Treasurer, Mercer County ESC

Stephanie Hanna, Treasurer/CFO, Monroeville Local Schools

Mike Bostelman, Treasurer/CFO, Napoleon City Schools

Steven Stewart, Treasurer, North Baltimore Local Schools

Homer Hendricks, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, Northwest Ohio Educational  
Service Center

Joyce Dupont, Treasurer, Norwalk City Schools

George Fisk, Superintendent, Norwalk City Schools

Jane Fruth, Treasurer/CFO, Oregon City Schools

Adam Koch, Superintendent, Otsego Local Schools

Steve Carroll, Treasurer, Otsego Local Schools

Kathy Fruchey, Treasurer, Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools

Robert Weber, Treasurer, Ottoville Local Schools

Barbara Russell, Assistant Treasurer, Pandora Gilboa Local Schools

Brad Deleruyelle, Treasurer / CFO, Pandora-Gilboa Local Schools

Edward Ewers, Superintendent, Penta Career Center

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Mandy France, CFO/Treasurer, Perry Local Schools (Allen County)

Pam Harrington, CFO/Treasurer, Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools

Tom Hosler, Superintendent, Perrysburg Schools

Christopher Lee, Treasurer/CFO, Pettisville Local Schools

Kenneth Boyer, Superintendent, Pettisville Local Schools

Ted Haselman, Superintendent, Pike-Delta-York Local School District

Gregory Nickoli, Superintendent, Pioneer Career & Technology Center

Dwayne Thompson, Superintendent, Piqua City Schools

Bradley Turson, Superintendent, Plymouth-Shiloh Local Schools

Jeff Dornbusch, Treasurer, Port Clinton City Schools

Pat Adkins, Treasurer, Port Clinton City Schools

Robert Britton, Superintendent, Ridgedale Local Schools

Melissa Pollom, Treasurer, Ridgemont Local Schools

Tracy Hiller, Treasurer, Riverdale Local Schools

Ronnie Fitchpatrick, Treasurer / CFO, Riverside Local Schools

James Rossler, Treasurer/CFO, Rossford Exempted Village Schools

Cindy Endsley, Superintendent, Spencerville Local Schools

Brenda Core, Treasurer, Spencerville Local Schools

Bill Ruane, Superintendent, St. Marys City Schools

Andrew Wilker, Treasurer, St. Marys City Schools

Christopher Lake, Superintendent, Swanton Local Schools

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Ryan Stechschulte, Treasurer/CFO, Toledo Public Schools

Nathan Lynch, Treasurer, Upper Sandusky E.V. Schools

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Tracy Hiller, Treasurer, Vanlue Local Schools

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Kadee Anstadt, Superintendent, Washington Local Schools

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Troy Armstrong, Superintendent, Wauseon Exempted Village Schools

Dave Fleming, Treasurer, Wauseon Exempted Village Schools

Cynthia Shoup, Treasurer, Willard City Schools

Daniel Russomanno, Treasurer, Woodmore Local Schools