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**Senate Finance Committee**

**Substitute Senate Bill 166 Testimony**

**Robert Hancock, CPA**

**Treasurer, Hamilton City School District**

**June 13, 2019**

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Burke, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address you concerning provisions of Sub SB166. My name is Robert Hancock, Treasurer for the Hamilton City School District.

Sub SB166 has a provision that would reduce Hamilton City School District’s funding below the amount that we are currently receiving, making Hamilton one of the few if not the only school district in the State of Ohio receiving less money in FY2020.

We were not consulted on this provision and respectfully request that it be modified so that Hamilton City School District receives the foundation funding we are receiving in FY2019 plus the additional dollars for student wellness. The State should provide Butler Tech an amount equal to what we are receiving in career tech weighted funds in FY2019, which is currently $778,661.50.

On page 164 of the comparison document it reads as follows:

“The Section 265.227 requires ODE, in the case of a city, local or exempted village school district (traditional school district) that provided a career-technical education (CTE) program in FY2019 but enters into an agreement with a JVSD to provide that CTE program beginning in FY2020, to adjust the amounts paid to those districts for FY2020 and FY2021 to account for the decrease in students served by the traditional school district and the increase in students served by the JVSD.

Prohibits ODE from increasing the aggregate amount of foundation aid paid to traditional school districts and JVSD’s when making this adjustment”.

We are opposed to this provision because other school districts are not having their funding reduced for enrollment declines. There are students moving from one school district to the other this summer across the State of Ohio and those movements will not be recognized for at least the next two years in the proposed budget.

There will be school districts that lose 200 students in FY2020 for various reasons, but their funding will not be decreased, Hamilton City School District should be treated the same.

The current budget proposal is a non-formula approach where every school district gets what they received last year (regardless of their enrollment in FY2020) plus additional dollars to be spent in twelve different areas to benefit student wellness.

On page 163 of the comparison document, school districts receive additional funding for additional students. Since the proposed budget already provides funding increases for unique circumstances, Butler Tech should receive at least the amount previously suggested from the State without reducing Hamilton City School District’s funding.

Hamilton City School District is a mid-sized urban school district with an enrollment of 9,700 students that has a long history of managing within their financial resources. As we entered this current fiscal year, we were looking at spending deficits for the next four years. The decision to move to Butler Tech was influenced by the potential cost savings that could occur under the current formula. Those savings can still be achieved by modifying the proposal as we have requested.

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Burke, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Finance Committee thank you for your attention this morning and I would be glad to answer any questions that you may have at this time.