



CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS SCHOOLS

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Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Williams, Members of the Ways and Means Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on H.B. 126.

The Cuyahoga Heights School District serves the villages of Brooklyn Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, and Valley View. Located about four miles from mid-town Cleveland, residents enjoy the Cleveland Metro Parks and the scenic Erie Canal which pass through our school district. There are three schools in the district with an enrollment of 822 students.

School funding in Ohio is a shared responsibility between the state and local school systems. Property taxes are the predominant method communities use to raise additional revenues in Ohio. In Cuyahoga Heights, we receive nearly all of our revenue from local property taxes.

Because local property taxes are essential to our funding, we participate in the BOR process. We file counter-complaints in response to commercial decrease complaints. We file increase complaints in regard to a recent sale of a commercial property.

Over the years commercial taxpayers have challenged the valuations of likely every commercial property in the District. The ability to file complaints and counter complaints protects the District's tax revenue and tax base. We want to make sure the School Board is doing everything possible to maintain valuations and current revenue before seeking further assistance from voters. This approach has allowed us to maintain the lowest millage rates in Cuyahoga County.

We engage counsel on a fee-for-service basis as we do for other school law work. I work with counsel as to filing of complaints with input and involvement from the School Board.

For the preceding reasons, I request the General Assembly to retain the ability for Cuyahoga Heights Local to participate in this process which is critical to our funding.

Thank you,

Matt Muccio, Treasurer