Opponent Testimony against HB 1
By Mike Halaiko

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Merrin, Ranking Member Troy, and Members of The Ohio House Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Mike Halaiko, and I am a retired Educator with over 40 years' experience in Ohio's Public and Private Schools. Thank you for this opportunity to give opposition testimony to HB 1.
 I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

1) HB 1 is a large tax break for the richest Ohioans, and little or nothing for everyone else.
2) The proposal of a flat tax will cut much needed funding to public schools and other public services, and raise taxes, which will fall more heavily on low- and middle-income families.
3) This bill will cost about 2 billion a year. Ohio finances may be strong now, due to federal support, which boosted the economy during the pandemic. How will that price tag be met in the future?
4) This bill proposes that the state stop paying 10% of homeowners' property taxes. That sounds good on the surface, but this would result in a $1.2 billion a year cut in support of our public schools.
5) The loss in property tax revenues will also affect and hurt local governments, that rely on much needed state funds.
6) The Ohio Supreme Court ruled in 1997 that local property tax levies are an unconstitutional way to fund public schools. Placing the burden of funding our public schools and other public services with more property tax levies is not the answer.

I urge you to vote No on HB 1. State Funds exist for all of our citizens on a fair and equitable basis, not just for the few.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions.

The above testimony is based on information obtained from
1) "The hidden costs and pitfalls in HB 1's sweeping tax rewrite", Max Schiller
2) "Ohio lawmakers consider major tax changes: What would you pay?", Anna Starver, *The Columbus Dispatch*, Friday, March 10, 2023
3) "Ohio House Imperils Public School Revenues with a Proposed Tax Cut for the Rich" by Jan Resenger