



Madeira City Schools

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Dear Senator Blessing,

On behalf of Madeira City Schools and our Board of Education, I write to urge your opposition to several provisions within the Ohio Senate's substitute version of House Bill 96. While we appreciate efforts to prioritize education funding, aspects of this bill—particularly around property tax restrictions, levy limitations, and local control—threaten the fiscal stability, governance, and future planning capacity of high-performing school districts like ours.

Madeira City Schools has consistently demonstrated strong academic outcomes, responsible financial stewardship, and community-supported investments. Yet, the proposed legislative actions would undermine our ability to maintain excellence for our students and retain the local governance that our community expects.

While there are arguably many concerns with the Senate's substitute version of HB 96 for public schools across Ohio, specifically in Madeira, we are concerned about the following:

- **Limits Our Community's Voice in School Funding**

The bill continues to take away our local control and caps districts savings and planning. A new limit on school district carryover funds, while it is more than the Ohio House version, would still restrict our ability to plan ahead, respond to emergencies, or invest in long-term needs. **Bottom line, the legislative House and Senate proposals undermine the will of the voter and reduces local control.**

- **HB 335 – Elimination of Inside Millage**

The bill seeks to eliminate inside millage in Ohio's public schools including government agencies like police and fire. If this proposal were included, the losses to public schools and Madeira City Schools would be catastrophic – our calculations are suggesting that the annual loss to Madeira's high performing public schools would be \$2.5 million annually.

We respectfully ask you to support legislation that respects the will of local voters, rewards financial responsibility, and preserves the autonomy of locally elected boards. Madeira is proud to be one of Ohio's top public school districts, but we cannot sustain excellence without the local tools and flexibility that have historically enabled our success.

Please consider advocating for amendments that preserve local control, levy authority, and financial discretion. Our students and our community deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

Kenji Matsudo

Superintendent

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"A school community where learning is personalized and success is ensured."