

[INSERT DISTRICT LOGO OR PRINT ON DISTRICT LETTERHEAD]

**Senate Local Government and Elections Committee
HB 458 Opposition Testimony**

**[School District Name], [County or Counties]
[Your Name], [Title]**

[November __], 2022

Chair Gavarone, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill (HB) 458.

My name is [Your Name] and I serve as the [Title] for the [School District Name] in [County or Counties]. The [School District Name] *[provide any relevant details on size, number of students served, etc.]*

The August special election is essential in maintaining a school district's ability to raise and sustain the critical funding necessary to educate students. Due to both the nature of the Ohio Constitution and the state's school-funding formulas, many schools are forced to routinely rely on voters to pass levies in order to maintain current levels of educational services. To pass a levy, it requires voter education on the needs of the school district. In our district, *[Insert details of your district's experience/necessity for levies, etc. Tell your district's story. Please include details related to the positive discussions you have had voters, staff, etc. regarding levies/levy campaigns].*

[OFCC Projects - if applicable, note any specifics that apply to your district] In addition to limiting a district's ability to place an operating levy on the August ballot, HB 458 also has negative implications for school districts participating in an Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) project. The OFCC process gives districts 13 months to pass a bond issue after the July announcement of eligible districts. This gives districts three opportunities to pass a bond issue to provide the local share of funding for their project (first in November, then May, and finally in August). *[Note any specifics related to your district's history, success/failure in rating its local share for your OFCC project]*

Placing an issue on the August ballot is a decision not taken lightly, and it is one that should be decided by each board of education or board of trustees with their understanding of the community's needs and interest. The August ballot serves as a key opportunity for districts to educate voters on the levy request and the needs of the district.

Chair Gavarone and members of the Committee, this concludes our testimony. **We urge you to oppose HB 458.** Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to address your questions.

[Two things to keep in mind: 1) Re-word content to meet your own speaking style, it will flow more naturally for you as you speak. Also, we don't want everyone's testimony to look like a cut-and-paste. 2) Add any other relevant information you think will strengthen the arguments.]