

Representative Vernon Sykes  
77 S. High Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Dear Representative Sykes:

As you and your colleagues work to draft a final version of the budget bill, I am writing to let you know of several issues that are concerning me as a resident of the Olentangy Local School District.

Olentangy has been the fastest-growing district in the state for the last six years. This extreme growth factor has put Olentangy in a unique and difficult funding situation for several years. The most current district enrollment count stands at 14,048 students. However, until coming off of the guarantee this school year, the district had been receiving the same amount of state funding as in 2004 when enrollment was just 8,521.

For years, the district has had to rely on local tax dollars for the vast majority of its funding. Since one of the major reasons for revamping our education-funding system was to take some of the burden off of the local taxpayer, I respectfully request that you and your colleagues add the following provision to the budget bill:

*Any school district experiencing an enrollment growth rate from one year to the next greater than 2.5%, with a minimum of 200 additional students, shall receive an additional amount of State aid for each additional student in excess of 200 equal to the annual per pupil State aid provided to chartered non-public schools.*

For this same reason, I also ask that the committee members work to reinstate the language from section 3306.192 of the House bill, which guarantees that no public school district will receive less per-pupil state funding than that provided to chartered non-public schools.

Finally, I respectfully request that you retain the language in the Senate's version of the bill that permanently extends the tangible personal property reimbursement payments.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters and for all of the work you do on behalf of our community.