

RESOLUTION NO. 55-2021 (CRR)

By Council Member Hart

A Resolution expressing support for House Bill 1, containing the Fair School Funding Plan; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2020, this Council passed Resolution No. 130-2020, expressing its support for House Bill 305 and Senate Bill 376, which proposed to remedy the state's unconstitutional school funding system by funding vouchers directly by the state; and

WHEREAS, the Senate did not consider Senate Bill 376 prior to its legislative session ending; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1 contains the Fair School Funding Plan, which is virtually identical to House Bill 305 and again seeks to remedy the state's unconstitutional school funding system; and

WHEREAS, this Council is aware that the state's unconstitutional school funding system creates an overreliance on local property taxes to fund the school system, and that constituents in the CH-UH School District were almost evenly divided recently on the issue of raising more property taxes to support the district; and

WHEREAS, funding inequities for schools have had a secondary effect of causing the schools to become resegregated by race and have created a false perception that public schools provide a lower quality education; and

WHEREAS, both the unconstitutional funding system and the deficit financing of vouchers have caused the CH-UH School District to ask the voters to authorize tax levies that would likely have been unnecessary had the state enacted a constitutional funding structure for schools; and

WHEREAS, the current form of deficit funding for vouchers is not sustainable and unless fixed by state lawmakers will hurt the Cleveland Heights community with greater taxation and educational cuts which will hurt Cleveland Heights youth; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1, if passed, would provide great relief to the CH-UH School District by increasing the funding to schools while still allowing vouchers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council hereby endorses and declares its support for House Bill 1 and urges the Ohio legislature to pass the same. This Council believes that passage of House Bill 1 is a step toward correcting the unconstitutional funding system that has harmed the City of Cleveland Heights and the CH-UH School District.

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SECTION 2. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to timely voice support for House Bill 1. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

JASON S. STEIN
President of the Council

AMY HIMMELEIN
Clerk of Council

PASSED: May 3, 2021