

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Sykes and Members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for serving Ohio's citizens at this very important time in the State's history.

My name is Gail Larson. I live in the Noble neighborhood of the Cleveland Heights University Heights (CHUH) School District. My daughter teaches at Noble and also lives in this highly diverse neighborhood.

The children of my neighborhood deserve a public school system that gives them unlimited opportunities to achieve success and become independent citizens in this democracy. Under the current, unconstitutional funding formula, their schools are not Fairly Funded to give them those opportunities.

As a homeowner, I expect my property taxes will be used, primarily, to fund our public schools. This is not the case in the CHUH School District due to the State's current funding plan for vouchers. My property taxes are being deducted from the CHUH school district funds and sent on to charter and religious schools to pay for EdChoice Vouchers.

A voucher for a student in K-8 is worth \$4650 according to Jenny Hamel's Audio in Ideastream's E-news, February 17, 2020, "EdChoice has Cleveland Heights University Heights Schools in Limbo". The same Audio E-News reported that High School student vouchers are worth \$6,000. Since the State's share is approximately \$2,000 per CHUH CFO, Scott Gainer, my share of the charter and religious school tuition is \$2,650 for each K-8 student and \$4,000 for each High School student. I do not want to fund EdChoice vouchers with my property taxes!

Please support HB110, the Fair School Funding Plan, as written, and include it in the budget you are currently considering. This is your constitutional responsibility. Our children need you to pass Fair Funding for Public Schools now. HB110 will fund EdChoice Vouchers directly from the State Budget and it will give all students access to a public school with adequate resources for an education full of opportunities. My property taxes will go towards educating my neighborhood's children rather than paying for private school tuition.

Martin Luther King said "The time is always right to do what is right."