

Testimony on HB110 (Appropriations for FY 2022-23 Budget)
Submitted to the Ohio Senate Primary & Secondary Education Committee,

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by Daniel Hershman-Rossi
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Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, I am writing to urge you to pass, implement and fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan in HB110.

I am a proud resident, parent, and teacher in Cleveland Heights. My wife is an attending physician with the Cleveland Clinic and my daughters (ages 3 months and 2.5) will attend kindergarten at Fairfax Elementary in a few short years. I am a Cleveland Heights Teachers Union executive board member and band teacher at Roxboro Middle School, where I am lucky enough to make music every day with enthusiastic, talented middle school musicians.

Our state school funding system has resulted in massive inequities across the state. Our district is the hardest hit, due to our economic diversity and the high number of students who attend private and parochial schools. Consequently, our students and programs suffer. Our district has faced multiple cuts to staff and programs in their efforts to balance their shrinking budget, and we are forced to pass levies that burden (and divide) our city further.

The Fair School Funding Plan is a well-researched plan that will repair the damage that has been done to our community by an unfair funding model. It benefits every school system and does not result in any district losing funding. It will directly fund EdChoice vouchers, meaning that districts such as ours who have been unfairly labelled “failing” do not foot the bill for families who choose to send their children to private and parochial schools. Most importantly, it will allow districts such as ours to continue to provide excellent, high quality education to our children.

We finally have the opportunity to fix a broken school funding system. I urge you to do what is right and pass the HB110 unchanged in the new budget.