I support HB110. The Fair School Funding Plan, now part of HB110, enhances equity, increases the state's investment in the under-resourced public schools which serve concentrations of our state's poorest children, and ends school district deduction funding for charter schools and EdChoice vouchers for private school tuition. These are all important principles, and the need in our state for passage of the Fair School Funding Plan is urgent.

I am a senior citizen, a resident for 33 years of Cleveland Hts, a parent of 2 children who are now grown but who attended a mix of public and private schools, like many families we know. One graduated with a superlative experience from Heights High; one from a fine parochial school. We were a middle income family and made decisions at each stage about the type of setting we thought best for each child. During the years when we made a CHOICE to attend private schools it never occurred to us that tax money should pay for that choice. We paid private tuition a few years, sacrificing to make that CHOICE possible but always gladly paid our property taxes to support all the District's children who attended public schools. During our children's public schooling we found the instruction, facilities and overall experience to be excellent.

Public education fosters democratic principles and values. Those who criticize it have not studied its history and place in our society. Those who are fixated on standardized testing as a measure of "under-performing" public schools have not studied the evidence, which demonstrates that the only correlation with test scores is parents' income.

There has been general agreement for years that the way Ohio and certain other states fund public education is unfair, unconstitutional, and a burden to communities and businesses alike. You have before you a well-thought-out piece of bi-partisan legislation that will move towards fairness and support democratic principles. Now is the time to take corrective action.

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