

Senate Finance Committee  
Interested Party Testimony

Sub HB No 110

Gayle S. Smith

6/03/2021

Dear Chairman Dolan, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Gayle S. Smith and I am a resident of Dayton, Ohio Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the Senate Budget and funding of Ohio's Public Schools.

*Ohio's future depends on all our kids getting a great education - no matter their race, zip code, or family income.*

*Whether we're from cities or the country, suburbs or small towns all of us want our kids to go to great schools and follow their dreams.*

*We believe where you live or what you look like shouldn't determine your opportunities to succeed.*

*We all want the very best for our students to thrive, like quality learning resources, world-class infrastructure, and enough well-paid teachers and staff who can take care of all our kids' needs.*

*Ohio's future depends on all our kids getting a great education - no matter their race, zip code, or family income.*

The Fair School Funding plan passed in the house is an important step in strengthening our community schools. The plan:

- Creates Additional Funding for Kids: Provides an additional \$1.99B in school funding over 6 years.
- Provides Local Relief: The plan reduces the need for local levies that rely on property taxes.
- Equitably Fixes the Formula: The plan helps all kids, but prioritizes the most in need -- 70% of all the revenue will go to the poorest districts.
- Reimagines School Choice: Direct funding for charters and vouchers from the state instead of burdening local districts.

- Establishes Oversight: Will create an oversight committee to run studies and monitor progress on this plan.

I am urging this committee and the members of the Senate to amend the plan that was submitted on June 1 to meet these goals.