

Chair Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Committee:

My name is Stacy Recker and I live in Cincinnati, Ohio. For 23 years, I have taught Social Studies at West Clermont High School in Batavia, Ohio. This is district where parents and students struggle financially, where many students can only count on the two meals at school to eat, and where our district office sponsors a van to get to our district health clinic, so students can get basic health care including dental and vision. Every levy that needs to be passed is an enormous ask of the community and often takes more than one election to pass. Money is tight in the community and money is tight for West Clermont students' education, so much so that our Superintendent and Treasurer make a point to let the community know that "our district runs lean."

No district in the State of Ohio should have to "run lean." No Ohio Student should get less because their district is not as socioeconomically advantaged as another district. Public Education should be equal in content quality and funding for every Ohio Student to ensure they have the best start in life to achieve their career and life goals.

House Bill 11 will make this situation worse. A universal voucher scheme directly harms the foundations of equality and the foundations of providing a quality public education to every Ohio Student. HB 11 would rob the 90% of Ohio's students who attend public school of billions of dollars to fund 10% of students who attend private schools. Many of these students' families can afford private school tuition without assistance. So many public school students depend on school and educators to provide them with their only meals, the only physical comfort they get in a day, and the only emotional support they get in a day. The students in public schools need more resources, not significantly less! These voucher bills are unfair, jeopardize student well-being, and rob the less fortunate while enlarging the pockets of those already well off, who are making the choice to send their child to a private school. Rather than these voucher schemes to schools that perform significantly worse on state tests and have little to no oversight, it is time for the Ohio Legislature to fully implement the Fair School Funding Plan.