

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 33
Senate Education Committee
5/29/2023

Tracy Perry
596 East North Broadway, Columbus, OH 43214

Dear Chair Andrew Brenner, Vice Chair Sandra O'Brien, Ranking Member Catherine Ingram and members of the Education committee of the Ohio Senate:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Tracy Perry. I am a parent with children in several Columbus City School Districts schools. My youngest son is a kindergartener at Indianola Informal and my oldest son is an 8th grader at Columbus Gifted Academy and plans on attending Columbus Alternative High School next year. I am writing you to note that **I am in support of fully funding the Fair School Funding plan outlined in HB33.**

As my oldest son approached school age, my husband and I watched our neighbors with young children flee from our neighborhood to affluent suburbs like Upper Arlington and Worthington. We made an intentional choice to stay within the Columbus City school system. We both believe that it is important for the development of our children as citizens to interact with many kinds of people and had the privilege of making a choice. Within in the Columbus City School district there are a great range of economic circumstances.

All children deserve and are owed an equitable public education. We also all deserve the same special education opportunities for both gifted children and special education children. Our sons run the spectrum of needing both kinds of services. Because the lack of funding available for services, my sons have had to go outside their home schools to have their needs met. One is in a building without air conditioning until this past year and does not have basic accessible infrastructure to accommodate a student with a mobility disability. The building has portions of the building unusable due to the conditions of the building as well as bathrooms and classrooms that have not been renovated since the 1970's and are in poor conditions. The conditions of this building and, honestly, most of the buildings in our district are unacceptable and are a direct result of underfunding. My family is committed to any effort that prioritizes improved funding and resources to the kids that need it most in every public school district in Ohio.

I am here to ask that you fully fund the Fair School Funding plan rather than slowly phase it in.

Thank you.