

My name is Nicole Lesnick and I live with my husband and 8 children in Brook Park, Ohio. 3 of my children are graduates of the Berea City School District. 4 of my 5 children who currently attend the Berea City School District have IEPs. Two of my children are in a behavior based resource room with the most amazing teachers. Public education is not just necessary for my family but for families in my community. I am opposed to the proposed budget cuts to education in this bill.

I believe that all of Ohio's children deserve a high quality fully funded education based on their needs. Where they live should not determine what kind of education they receive. My children deserve the very best education as well as every other child in Ohio. I am writing because public education deserves to be fully and fairly funded.

This bill is calculating the needs of our Ohio students at 2022 prices. I could not go to the grocery store with 2022 money and purchase the same amount of groceries for my family to feed them adequately to give them their best foot forward every day. Eggs cost about \$3.60 a dozen in 2022. Today that same dozen if I could even find them in my grocery store at least \$4.95 and that is a January 2025 price. It is necessary for Ohio to be realistic in the education needs of our students and give our schools the money they deserve and require to help create the next generation of Ohioians.

Cutting funding to special education would be hurting over 250,000 of Ohio's children. These children are just as worthy of a quality education as a typical learner. The cost is more and that's okay. What's not okay is cutting the funding for special education that will take children who were previously growing academically and keep them where they are or push them farther behind the rest. Families are struggling to put food on the table. Special needs families are also struggling to make sure their children get to doctors appointments, get medicine, and therapies. Cutting the money helping out their children to be educated is like telling us that our kids don't matter. Supporting charter schools that could turn away our kids because they don't want them there can happen but public schools are required to educate our children with a free and appropriate education.

We need to continue fair school funding at current costs and prepare for inflation. I believe in the power and effectiveness of public education. Public dollars need to go to public schools and not charter schools.

I ask you to think of my children, your children, and every child in Ohio. Equitable fair school funding is what Ohio's children need.