

Testimony of Jennifer Lundine
Before the Ohio House Education Committee
Representative Fowler Arther, Chair
February 21, 2025

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Jennifer Lundine, and I am a concerned citizen submitting testimony in opposition to HB96. My family currently benefits from Ohio public schools and we want to keep them as the strong institutions of learning and not weaken the public's access to FREE and APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION guaranteed to Americans by law. My mother worked as a school nurse in public schools, my husband and I attended public schools, and now our 2 teenagers attend public schools in Ohio. Financially, we have a choice – but we chose to send our children to Columbus City Schools, and they have benefitted from the diversity and breadth of the education they have received.

Columbus City Schools stands to lose more than \$30 million dollars if HB96 is passed. Taking money from the most vulnerable students in Ohio is abhorrent. Columbus City Schools is the largest district in our State – currently with 44,000 students enrolled. Yes, there are schools that struggle – but this is often because the students and families who are enrolled in these schools don't have appropriate supports outside of school. Instead of cutting funds from teachers and support staff – and giving those funds to charter and religious schools – consider supporting after-school programs and school meals to support families in schools that already exist.

I am writing to object to the draconian cuts proposed in HB96 which will take crucial dollars out of our public schools. NINETY percent of Ohio students attend public schools. Cutting public school funding does nothing to improve the state of education in the great state of Ohio but rather weakens our ability to educate the next generation of leaders. If we want Ohio to continue to be a state that educates its citizens, we must not weaken our public-school systems. I urge Ohio legislatures to stand against this unpopular bill. Ohioans are not interested in this biased and politically motivated plan.

Let us actually strengthen the public-school systems we have in the State of Ohio. I submit this testimony in opposition to this harmful bill. I urge moderate and thoughtful action to move Ohio forward – not backward.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Lundine
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