

Testimony of Arin Sheeler
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 Arin Sheeler, 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.

I am a parent of three children in the Columbus City Public School System and serve as the Secretary of the Parent Teacher Organization for my children's elementary school. My oldest child, now in 7th Grade, has attended public school since Pre-K, and his younger two siblings are likewise following along in the same school path, having started in public school in Pre-K. My parents were both school teachers in Columbus City Schools, and our family strongly believes in the value of QUALITY public education.

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,

Arin Sheeler
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