

February 23, 2025

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

Thank you for allowing me, Debi Wilson, Anderson Township, to submit written testimony. The purpose is to urge the committee to include the third phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the State budget. School districts such as the one in which I live, Forest Hills, already receive less funding per pupil than other Ohio districts while continuing to outperform many districts receiving substantially more money.

According to the Ohio Dept. of Ed CUPP Report, the average funding per pupil in the State is \$7,443. whereas Forest Hills receives \$3,608. Our community is made up primarily of middle-class families who are already over-extended due to high property taxes. We are good stewards of tax payer dollars and continue to spend less per pupil with greater achievement than similar districts (Forest Hills at \$14,701. vs State average of \$16,311.) Our District would be devastated financially without Fair School Funding. We managed to pass a levy in 2023, but we simply won't be able to pass another anytime soon.

Please:

- . Protect the guarantee for Forest Hills and similar districts
- . Fully implement the Fair School Funding Plan, including the third phase-in in the State budget, and update the inputs to the current cost of living (it's presently based on four years ago)
- . Increase the State share minimum from 10% to 20% to ensure that public education remains a shared State and local responsibility

90% of Ohio students attend public schools. Our families are your constituents. Please demonstrate that you support public education in Ohio. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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