

Testimony of Melissa Thobe
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 Melissa Thobe, 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 proud product of Ohio Public Education and a mother of two brilliant and curious children currently in the Ohio Public Education system.

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,

Melissa Thobe
110 Amazon Pl
Columbus, OH 43214