

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 96
House Education Committee
February 24, 2025

Jennifer T. Schrock, Vice President of the New Philadelphia City Schools Board of Education

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso and members of the Education committee of the Ohio House of Representatives:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Jennifer Schrock, I am a proud parent of a 4th grader and a preschooler. I serve on the New Philadelphia City School Board of Education, and my husband and I own a local NAPA Auto Parts Store. I am a lifelong resident of Tuscarawas County, OH. My school district has a long history of having top notch educators, administrators, and staff, but due to the state violating the Ohio Constitution, this isn't going to continue to be the case. Our district is one of the lowest paying districts in the county for teachers. New Philadelphia is the county seat, we should be setting the standard. We have a bond issue and permanent improvement levy on the ballot this spring; the same issue that bombed in November. The average age of our facilities is 80 years old; they are not safe nor accessible, and they must be replaced. If our community answers the call and passes this levy in the spring that needs to be the last time we go to ballot asking taxpayers to foot the bill for the State of Ohio. It is the State of Ohio's constitutional duty to provide a fair and fully funded public education system. New Philadelphia will not be able to keep teachers in our district if we do not have the money to pay them a competitive salary. Communities like New Philadelphia only thrive if they have a strong school district. The budget should be based on the fair funding formula, with up to date inputs. In case you didn't notice, life is significantly more expensive in 2025 than it was in 2022. I am in full support of funding Ohio's public schools in the budget bill..

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. Please adhere to the law and vote yes for a fully and fairly funded public school system for our kids.

Respectfully,

Jennifer T. Schrock