

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify via email today. My name is Elizabeth Robitaille, and I am a proud parent of two Ohio public school children. I am a passionate parent, a business manager, and an Akron resident who loves her city.

I'm writing to compel the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

I'm the child (and sibling) of a lifelong educator. When I became a parent, I knew that my relationship with my children's schools would be a priority. I have seen, firsthand, the effort, time, and nonstop work that our teachers do all year round. My husband and I are proudly public school kids and felt strongly that it was an important part of being in the community. My children (now 9th and 6th grade) have since been in our local public schools and THRIVE in the environment.

From our elementary school experience at Resnik CLC (*where our kids won writing contests, learned the history of Akron, and participated in community events*) to NIHF STEM middle school (*where they have been published, learned about nonprofit work in Akron, participated in 3 years of the Lunar Festival, and learned everything from Engineering to Chinese to the trombone*), to now, our first year at AECHS (*where my kid learns about totalitarian governments and takes advanced math classes, learns Chinese with college students, plays flag football, works the literary magazine, etc.*), our public school experience would stand up to ANY private education you could imagine.

Why then, would we contemplate taking funds away from these programs? Please understand that my bright and successful kids think of Akron as their home and want to BE HERE as successful adults. They want to return to their community and give back. We must continue to support these kids and their schools.

I ask that you consider my testimony and choose to support the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools. Please include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget. Thank you for reading this testimony.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Robitaille

Proud mother of Leah (15) and Maeve(11)