

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

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony today. My name is Lindsey Wyckoff.

I am a North Canton City Schools Board of Education member and work for the American Cancer Society as the Director, Regional Integrated Marketing. I am writing you today in support of full funding Ohio's public schools in the budget bill.

Our public schools in the U.S. were created to prepare citizens for democracy, provide moral instruction, and educate immigrants. Our Founding Fathers believed that educated citizens were necessary for a successful democracy to exist and literacy was considered critical for civic duty.

This opportunity to provide free, equitable access to a quality education for all children set the precedent that that access was a human right. I still believe this is the case as, at its core, education is the ultimate equalizer in society. Education provides individuals from all socioeconomic backgrounds, ethnicities, races, religions, and abilities with the opportunity to gain knowledge, skills, and qualifications that can level the playing field, allowing them to access better jobs, participate fully in society, and overcome barriers related to their origin.

I'm proud to have attended a public school and now serve on that district's board of education. My dad was a school counselor at the middle and high school levels and my mom taught seventh-grade history and geography. Both of my parents retired from North Canton.

Having a strong district is why families move to North Canton. Our leadership is strong, our teachers are amazing, and every employee in our district has an impact on our students. We've been recognized as a five-start district, and we want to maintain that status.

But we cannot do that without funding. Our public schools need the resources to continue to serve students of all abilities at a high level. We need to be able to retain great teachers – and educate the next generation of educators. The bottom line is that our public schools are shaping the future of our country – and it's where our greatest investment should lie as communities and as government officials.

Again, I support fully funding Ohio's public schools so that ALL students have the opportunity to access a quality education and reach their full potential.

I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote yes to funding the Fair School Funding Plan. Additionally, implementing the cost inputs would allow public schools to be fully funded. Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Lindsey Wyckoff