

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Katherine Schuckman. I am a mother of three children, one who just started kindergarten in the Loveland School District this year. I am also a nurse practitioner at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget and update inputs. I am asking that you protect the guarantee for Loveland Schools and similar districts. I ask that you increase the state share input from 10%-20% to ensure that public education remains a local and state shared responsibility.

In the state of Ohio, 1.8 million students rely on public education. Public schools offer all students the opportunity to receive a high-quality education. My three kids have their entire schooling careers ahead of them. This is not just for my children, but for all children and future children in our district. If state funding continues to decrease, our schools will have to cut vital resources that are available to students. We already do more with less in our district. State funds per student in 2024 were \$4,250, while 85% of districts receive more state funding per student.

Here in Loveland, we cannot continue to increase local taxes with school levies. We rely on state funding to alleviate the financial burden in the community. Without a strong school district, we will not have a strong community. My husband and I both grew up in Loveland, and we moved back after college to raise our own family. One important factor in that decision was the excellent school district. I love our district and hope to keep great. It would be a major loss to the entire community if we have to start making cuts due to lack of funding. The students, teachers, parents, and economy will all suffer. Public schools are the foundation for a child to live a productive life as an adult.

I ask you to 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 again for the opportunity to testify.