

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony. My name is Emily Jackson. I have one child who graduated from public school and one who is a junior. I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

I live in the Lakota Local School District in Butler County, Ohio. Our district has earned more than ten consecutive auditor with distinction awards. The fiscal team and our board work diligently to create a balanced budget and be fiscally responsible.

Our community is aging. We have many residents on fixed incomes now who cannot continue supporting our district through property taxes. We watch districts throughout Ohio fail school board levy campaigns. Our last levy took three tries before the community passed it.

Ohio has been working towards a bipartisan funding model for our public schools, and it is critical that we continue with the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase. This model has been vetted by several of you, your colleagues, and our Governor. It is legal, bipartisan, and necessary to keep our public schools competitive and attractive to new residents.

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.