

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 Melinda Hubbard. I am a long time resident of Ohio, and the mother of three children, all three of which have attended public schools here in Ohio for their entire education. I and my husband are also proud graduates of public schools as were my parents before us. We believe strongly in the benefits and opportunities granted by our public educational system. I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

As the mother of three students in the public school systems, I have seen first hand both the problems with the funding of our schools and the benefits our students receive from a public school experience. When my children were young, they attended school in the Little Miami School District. Because of inadequate funding and an inability to pass a levy, that district went bankrupt and the quality of education diminished. We were forced to move out of the district.

Now, we live happily in the Loveland school district where my kids enjoyed many opportunities including participating in an award-winning Show Choir, the school Marching Band, and my son was able to learn a trade at the Great Oaks school. In addition, my daughter who has suffered from debilitating anxiety has been able to easily and successfully continue her education through the Greater Ohio Virtual Academy.

To me, education is one of the most vital tools we can offer our children and will help build the state of Ohio both economically and in vibrancy. It is imperative that we support these schools.

As such, I am asking for the following:

- Full implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan including the phase-in and the update to the inputs
- An increase in the state share minimum from 10% to 20% to ensure that public education remains a shared state and local responsibility
- Protection of the guarantee to Loveland City School District and similar districts

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.

Sincerely,  
Melinda Hubbard