

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify in writing. My name is Megan Ginther. I have been an educator in Ohio for 23 years. I have been a classroom teacher, a literacy specialist, a supervisor of teaching and learning, and am currently an assistant director of curriculum. I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

Investing in a quality education isn't just a necessity; it's an unwavering commitment we owe to every child in our community. Ohio ranks 45th out of 50 states in funding per pupil. We are in the bottom 10% of states nationwide for supporting 1.7 million public school students. In my home district, funding will be reduced by 5% in fiscal year 2026 and 10% in 2027. This will result in a \$2.5 million decrease for these two years and a catastrophic loss if the guarantee is eliminated over the next four years, leading to larger class sizes and fewer resources for children of our community.

I urge you to fully implement the Fair School Funding Plan. I also urge you to increase the state share minimum from 10% to 20% to ensure that public education remains a shared state and local responsibility. Public school is crucial to the well-being and economic success of any town/city/country. To deny public schools of funding is an egregious act. All children, regardless of income, ethnicity, and status have the right to a public education to better the future of our state and country.

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.

Regards,
Megan Ginther
Loveland, Ohio