

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 Lauren Friedman. I have earned a Master of Education degree and work in the Education/Workforce Development fields and am deeply involved with public education in our state for my job. I am writing today, though, as a parent of three boys who attend public schools in Ohio. I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

My three sons receive a high-quality education at their public elementary and high schools, and I have no interest in utilizing vouchers or sending them to a charter school. I only want the state to not decrease funding for public education and to stop destroying our public education system here. And, I do not want my tax dollars going to private and/or religious schools.

A \$103M reduction in public education funding would cause irreparable harm to our students, and destroying the education they receive will consequently destroy their chances to qualify for quality jobs and contribute meaningfully to our future workforce. A decision like this has long-term effects.

It is no secret that this state legislature has been undeniably tied to charter school scandal (ECOT, for starters). Apparently, this has in no way deterred our state government from causing further harm to our state's public-school students. Public education is a fundamental right in this country. Quality education must not be a privilege only available to the wealthy.

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,

Lauren Friedman, M.Ed.

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