

February 23, 2025

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

Thank you for reading this testimony. My name is Tracy Muñoz. I am mother to a child who graduated from an Ohio public school and have another currently in Ohio public schools. I am a product of Ohio public schools myself and am an educator in a public school. I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

Public education makes learning available to all people. Well-funded public education allows teachers to provide a complete and beneficial education to those it serves. I attended what was deemed an inner-city school for high school and was provided ample course offerings and activities to enhance my experience. I went on to get a PhD from a public university in Ohio, in part, because of the quality public education that I received growing up.

My children have benefited and are benefiting from their public education that my tax dollars help fund. They have also been afforded the ability to take challenging courses, expand their knowledge base, and to think critically and independently based on the instruction their teachers have provided them. One child is pursuing his dream of becoming a physician and the other has his sights on physical therapy. Without the great work of their funded school system and valued educators, these paths would be a challenge to say the least.

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 share my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Tracy M. Muñoz