

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony. My name is Emily Holmes. I am a public school high school social studies teacher, and I have dedicated the past 20 years to educating students in Ohio's public schools. I am also a product of Ohio's public school system, and my children currently attend public schools. I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

Public schools provide high-quality education and create opportunities for all students, regardless of their financial background. Throughout my two decades of teaching, I have primarily served students from lower-income families, and I have witnessed firsthand how access to a well-funded education can change lives. Without fair funding, Ohio will fail to provide equitable and high-quality education, widening the gap between wealthy and low-income students. Education is the single most powerful tool for upward mobility, and ensuring fair funding is essential to maintaining a society where every child has a chance to succeed.

It has always been my firm belief that our nation is one of the greatest in ensuring education for all people. However, this promise can only be upheld if we prioritize equitable funding for public schools. The responsibility to establish fair education funding does not rest on schools alone, it is a societal duty. If we fail to act, we will continue to see disparities that limit opportunities for thousands of Ohio's students.

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.

I am happy to take questions via email or phone.