

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

My name is Heather Pollock, and I am a parent of a student at NIHF-STEM Middle School in Akron Public Schools. My daughter, Harper started her education at King CLC – where I went as well – and now attends a middle school that is bringing out in her an appetite to learn through complex lenses, the chance to make a group of good friends from outside of our neighborhood, and now, in sixth grade, she is learning Mandarin!

Public education is the foundation of an informed, engaged citizenry. And while it seems these days that the powers that be would prefer the opposite: *an uneducated, uninformed, disengaged citizenry*, I must imagine that you know deep down the benefits of public education. In fact, I presume you would not be the persons to whom I have addressed this testimony if you had not received an education that taught you to keep informed, and encouraged you to engage in politics. We cannot rely on the uneducated to lead us. While leadership does not require folks to go on to MA's and PhD's, it does require the very least of all of us – to attend K-12, fully funded. From this populace come the leaders of our world.

I am writing to you today to urge you to prioritize public school funding in the upcoming budget. It is crucial that the Fair School Funding Plan be fully phased in and that the cost calculations used in the formula be updated to reflect the current economic climate. Outdated funding formulas put our children's education at risk.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I appreciate your support for Akron Public Schools and our students.

Sincerely,

Heather N. Pollock, 122 Conger Ave., Akron, OH 44303, 330.208.3832