

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 Elizabeth Sears. I am a member of District 28. I have a child currently enrolled in the Loveland School District. I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

When my husband and I were deciding where to purchase our home and start our family 16 years ago a thriving school district was top of our list. Our student has benefited from many amazing teachers over the years. Our administration works hard to spend our budget wisely and keep our outcomes high. We currently spend only 55% per pupil compared to the rest of the state, but rank in the top 3% of the state report card.

Our district is heavily funded by our local property taxes (more than 60%) and it has become a heavy burden on the local community. Each school levy ask has created hurtful division in our community and a decline in services. If phase 3 of the Fair Schools Funding act is not implemented, it will be devastating for our school district and others like it that are overly reliant on local property tax to make up the deficit not funded by our state tax.

I am asking you to please protect the guarantee, fully fund phase 3 and increase the state minimum share from 10% to 20%. Ohio needs to prioritize school funding. We are currently 45<sup>th</sup> in the country for per pupil funding. This lack of priority for education will lead to economic declines in the future.

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,

Elizabeth Sears

District 28