

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 Julie Hanser. I am a resident and business owner in Loveland, Ohio, and the proud parent of two graduates of Loveland City Schools. I'm writing to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

I have both a personal and professional interest in ensuring excellence in Ohio's public education. My now adult son has an intellectual disability which makes learning challenging. His experience in Loveland City Schools provided the educational, social, and emotional support he needed to succeed both in school and beyond. It wasn't easy and it took a village. The special education program and staff at Loveland were instrumental in his growth, development, and well-being. The prospect of other families losing this critical support is untenable as every child, regardless of ability, deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential.

As a business leader with over 30 years of experience developing talent and building teams, I am disappointed that Ohio ranks 45th out of 50 states in pupil funding. Ensuring our students are effectively educated and prepared to be contributing members of society and the workforce is key to Ohio's economic and cultural viability. Our 1.7 million public school students are our future and deserve our best, not a race to the bottom.

I ask you to consider my testimony and choose to support the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools by doing the following:

- Protect the guarantee for Loveland and similar districts.
- Fully implement the Fair School Funding Plan, including the phase-in, and update the inputs.
- Increase the state share minimum from 10% to 20% to ensure that public education remains a shared state and local responsibility.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Julie Hanser

Cc: Karen Brownlee, Steve Wilson