

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 Keri Arinsmier. I am a lifelong Ohioan, graduate of Ohio public schools, and a parent of public school children. I'm writing to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

I'm astonished that public school funding is even up for debate. Public schools are the backbone of our country, and I can't think of anything more important than ensuring that our children are safe and educated.

I could write a bunch of facts about how much my district will lose, etc., but you already know all of that. I'm asking you to stop looking at the numbers for a minute and really think about what your vote does to people, children. When you vote to take away public school funding, you are saying that something else is more important than educating our kids. What is it? Can you in good conscience say it out loud? "___ is more important than educating ALL of Ohio's kids and making sure they are safe and well taken care of?"

I'm tired of politicians who benefitted from our parents' investment in our schools saying that people should pull themselves up by their own bootstraps. I'm tired of politicians claiming they are "pro life" having the audacity to then turn around and cut funds for schools and school lunches.

I am where I am today because my parents and your parents didn't think twice about funding our schools. You are, too.

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.

-Keri Arinsmier