

## Testimony on State Budget

February 23, 2025

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Eugene Rutz. I am a resident in the Princeton school district, an engineer and an Associate Dean in the College of Engineering at the University of Cincinnati. I am writing to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

We have four grown children who all attended the Princeton City School district and we know firsthand how students can thrive when their schools provide resources and opportunities that support our children. Our children learned academics, they participated in enriching after-school programs, they were mentored by teachers who cared about their future. At Princeton, they were surrounded by a diverse community and learned how to get along with all regardless of economic or social status, race or gender. One of those children is an entrepreneur in the Cleveland area where, with others, he has started two businesses and has hired about 2 dozen people. Another of those children is now a priest with a parish in the Canton area, serving those citizens. They are products of our public schools.

As Associate Dean in the College of Engineering, I see every day the importance of education and the consequences of poorly supported education. If our economy is going to continue to thrive, we must have citizens prepared to contribute to that economy. At UC, the vast majority of our students come from Ohio's public schools. We need these students more prepared for college, not less. One example, the number of qualified individuals Intel will need to hire to manufacture microchips in Ohio.

I am not suggesting everyone needs to go to college, they do not as there are many excellent professions that do not require a college degree. But those professions likewise need programs fully supported by the state.

I ask you to support the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools. Ohio's students need the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

Thank you.

Eugene Rutz

Evendale, Ohio