

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 Lynn Mangan. I am a resident of District 28 and a current member of Loveland City School's Board of Education. I am a proud graduate of Ohio public schools, Sycamore Aviator, and the mom to four graduates of Loveland City Schools. I urge the committee to take three actions:

- a. protect the guarantee,
- b. include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget, including updating the inputs, and
- c. update the state minimum share from 10% to 20%.

In my career, I have served as an executive at some of Ohio's top organizations (Paycor, Clubessential Holdings). In those organizations, I was responsible for balancing customer, shareholder and employee needs. I'm used to ACCOUNTABILITY. As a member of the community who chaired the political action committee to get an operating levy passed in Loveland – I am well aware of what it takes to be held accountable to the citizens of our community. As a member of Loveland's Board of Education, I am held responsible for the children of our community. And I believe there is NOTHING more important than an investment in our children's education.

So, my ask of you today is that you please fund our public schools. The State of Ohio ranks 45th out of 50th in per-pupil funding for public education. We are in a race to the bottom in terms of our funding, dropping from 35th to 45th in the last 20 years. We have 1.7 million children in public schools and are the sixth-largest public school system in the country.

The current budget proposal is going to push us to the bottom. Loveland is a district that has approximately 4,000 students. 85% of Ohio's districts receive more funding than Loveland. And 55% spend more per pupil than we do. Despite property values of over 25%, Loveland's revenue only increased by 2.2%. But it is more than about the spending – what are our results? We are in the top 3% of districts in the state. Perfect scorecard and lower than average cost per pupil—outstanding outcomes for our students at a below-average price. In business terms – that is an excellent return on investment. All with a focus on the kids in our community – their growth is most critical to us.

And under the current proposal, our funding would decrease by \$2.5 million between now and FY2029. Our local share is 61%, and our state share is 28%. The same taxpayers in Loveland are

in the State of Ohio. If the state decreases funding, we will be forced to return to local taxpayers for even more funds. I implore you to please reject the current budget and make the following modifications:

- Protect the guarantee for Loveland and like districts.
- Fully fund the third phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan, including updating the inputs for the current fiscal year.
- And update the state minimum from 10% to 20%.

In conclusion, as you make this decision. Please take a look at the 1.7 million children who are in Ohio's public schools. There is no greater investment than the investment we make in our children. Ohio is in a race to the bottom regarding funding our schools. 45th out of 50. As a business leader, school board member, parent, and resident of Ohio and Loveland City Schools, I implore you to hold yourself accountable as we are held responsible as parents, residents, and school board members. We are accountable for the results of our children – the future leaders of our communities, state, country, and world. Please invest in our kids. I ask you to consider my testimony and choose to support the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools. Please protect the guarantee, include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget, including fully updated inputs, and increase the state minimum share from 10% to 20%. The state's share of funding our public schools must be increased. Like you, I represent all the taxpayers in our school district. And I cannot rest with the state share decreasing so dramatically. We must support ALL our children and ALL our taxpayers. Nothing outshines the vital role of education in shaping the future of our community's children. Investing in quality education isn't just a necessity; it's an unwavering commitment we owe to every child in our community.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

I will now take any questions you may have.