

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 Jeffrey Goliver. I am a Dublin City resident since 1992 and have lived in Ohio my entire life. I graduated from a public school district that bordered Lima City Schools. My 2 children have graduated from DCS now and I coached Field Hockey at Coffman HS (3 years as a volunteer asst and 2 years as Head Coach). I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

I believe school funding is one of the top priorities for state government and that bipartisanship of Cupp-Patterson's work on a funding model is reflective of what makes Ohio great as a state morally and economically.

I was one of the people who moved from the Lima area to attend OSU and then never went back. I attribute a very large percentage of my success coming from a very modest single income Westinghouse family to being a retiree in Dublin, OH. It's because of that background in Lima, I was a supporter of the DeRolph lawsuit in 1997. I had seen first hand the inadequate funding of Lima City Schools and the impact that had on friends of mine who attended LCS.

I believe that fully funding the Cupp-Patterson formula offers the best way for Ohio to stop the drain in areas like Lima. People move where their children can receive an adequate education to give their children the best chance at life. The population decline in Lima and the population increase in Dublin since 1990 certainly is only attributable to school funding but when you ask people why they moved to Dublin regardless of the high property taxes, they answer 'the public schools'.

As a state we cannot prosper when the only children to receive an adequate education are the ones whose parents can afford the property taxes of wealthy suburbs. The economist, Bill LaFayette was recently quoted regarding the anemic job growth in Franklin County "This problem weighs heavily on our economy," LaFayette wrote in his report. "If we improved from worst to first, there could be 42,000 fewer people in or near poverty 10 years from now and 154,000 more jobs than if we did nothing." Following other reports, LaFayette recommended better educating youth, especially minority youth, for the job world."

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.

I will now take any questions you may have.