

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 Steven Miller. I am the father of two children that attend public schools in Ohio and the successful product of public schools from another state. I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

I will keep this short and sweet and use a quote I feel is relevant. -- "Let me explain why I like to pay taxes for schools. ... It's because I don't like living in a country with a bunch of stupid people." -- It seems to me that the heart of the issue is the inability of our leaders to effectively prioritize education as a whole. We're in an era where more and more we should be looking for the root cause instead of only addressing the symptoms. This is true more than ever in health care and it's absolutely true in education. Columbus, and local residents question the accountability of public schools when it comes to spending yet offers **our public tax dollars to private and religious schools with just as much oversight**. I challenge you to create a simple, statewide reporting mechanism for public schools while re-prioritizing public education in this country. Lastly, despite the fact that DEI is a dirty word these days, I can unequivocally state that growing up in a diverse area and attending public schools with people that didn't look like me, didn't come from the same economic background as me, and didn't have the same perspective on life as me has 100% made my life better. I had a large wedding party, it was me and 4 other white guys, one black guy, two asian guys, and one Iraqi. Perspective and experience changes lives.

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.

Witness information attached. I would be happy to answer any questions via email, phone, or text.

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