

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for listening to my testimony today. My name is Richard Allendorf. I am an Ohio resident and father of three children. One who has successfully graduated from Ohio public schools and two who are currently attending public schools in Loveland, Ohio. I believe in public education and that our children are our most valuable resource. I'm here to strongly urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

As representatives of the state of Ohio, you are responsible for improving the lives of the residents of this state including the taxpayers and their children. In Ohio, we are failing our very own students because we are not appropriately funding the investment of their education. We can do better. You can do better. We must prioritize education.

Ohio ranks 45th lowest in what we provide per pupil for public education. We are already in the bottom 10% dropping from 35th place only twenty years ago to 45th out of 50 states. This is quite frankly embarrassing and not something to be proud of for any of the citizens of Ohio. We can start to turn this around and improve the numbers for our state by taking action today.

I have three requests for you all today. First, protect the guarantee for Loveland City School Districts and other like districts. The current plan calls for a 5% cut of the guarantee in fiscal 2026 and a 10% cut in fiscal 2027. That would mean

a \$2.5 Million cut in state funding to Loveland School District alone through fiscal 2029. Our Loveland residents are already paying more than their fair share (61%) and requiring them to fill yet another gap is completely unacceptable. My second request is to fully fund Phase 3. That includes updating the inputs of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget. My third request is to increase the State Minimum Share from 10% to 20% so that we can improve the balance between local and state funding. Help us fund our Ohio public schools.

There are 1.7 Million students in Ohio's public education today. It is vital that we invest in the education of these students. Are you willing to look each of them in the face and tell them that you chose not to support their education? Let's raise the bar, both for own own personal performance results and for the results of the education we provide for the children of Ohio who attend public schools.

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.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.