

Chair and Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to share with you why I feel it's important to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget. My name is Kim August and I am school based Physical Therapist.

Working in the public schools myself for many years, also residing in another state for many of those years, it is important to support the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools. Our public schools are important for education and also, special education, which is the area I work in. Everyday, I see how hard these teachers and other education staff work to make these students have a wonderful opportunity to not only feel safe, but for some, be fed. Ohio ranks in the bottom of state funding for this country and to be honest, when I look back at the educational spending for other states, this is just not okay. Public education is a shared state and local responsibility. Every child is allowed free public education. We need to increase the state minimum of 10% up to 20%, as we all know, cost of living has GONE UP and will continue to go up. As taxpayers, we cannot continue to pick up the difference in funding. Please protect the guarantee for all schools, most specifically in Loveland Ohio and continue to support and protect our public education.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kim August