

**Proponent Testimony for House Bill [96]
[Senate / House] [Education/Finance] Committee
2/24/2025**

Brittany Baker, School Social Worker

Chair Fowler, Vice Chair Odioso and members of the Education committee of the Ohio House of Representatives:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Brittany Baker. I am a school social worker at three different Columbus City Schools. I am also a resident of Columbus. I am a fierce advocate of high-quality public education. Every child deserves to have access to a fully funded and properly staffed school in their neighborhood. I am a product of public education and see the power that a robust and dynamic education system can provide to children and families. Education has the power to lift students and families out of poverty. I work with many families that are doing their best despite tough circumstances. Schools should be a safe place for children and families and when school funding is not equitable, there is no safety. All children, despite their background and zip code, deserve the very best.

Students and families from certain zip codes face a number of systemic oppressions. It is my job as an educator and advocate to help eliminate those barriers so students come to school every day. There are many barriers to attendance and I believe it's our job as adults/advocates to not create additional barriers.

I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote yes to funding the Fair School Funding Plan. Many students, families, care takers, community members, and educators are relying on your yes vote.

Thank you,

Brittany Baker, MSW, LSW

CCS School Social Worker