

Dear 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 Cristine Cravens. I am a mother of two sons who have attended school in the Mason School District. I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

I am a strong believer in public school education. Providing all students, from all income levels, geographies, and backgrounds, access to quality public education provides them with their chance to pursue the American dream. Both of my boys have been educated at Mason Schools, and I believe their education has fully prepared them for college.

Public schools need more funding and support, not less. I have visited and spoken with multiple school districts in the Cincinnati area, and caring administration staff and educators already try to stretch budgets as best they can. Teachers have to buy their own supplies. We need to grow our funding and support for them, not decrease it. Access to quality public education prepares our students to be highly contributing citizens when they reach adulthood.

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.

Best regards,

Cristine Cravens