

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

I am a resident, and also a “Mom & Pop” landlord in Akron. My spouse and I own and operate 3 rental properties in the Akron Public School system, and another in the Cuyahoga Falls School district. I believe strongly that investing in public education is a smart investment in our community's future. As a landlord, access to public schools that our communities and residents can be proud of helps serve to increase property values as well as my personal rental income. Conversely, failing to invest in public education has the opposite impact on property values and my personal rental income. Construction is currently underway on a new high school / middle school campus in Cuyahoga Falls – walking distance from our investment property. I have already seen firsthand how access to this new facility is driving up my property value as well as the amount of rent that I can collect.

Ohio has already committed to the Fair School Funding Plan. While this was under a previous Assembly of lawmakers, certainly this is not the first time that funding for a project is allocated over a longer period than a single legislative term. If this were the case, large infrastructure projects like roads and bridges would never be completed. I urge you not to stop short of the 3rd Phase outlined in the original plan. Let’s work together with our publicly elected and accountable local School Boards to properly fund our public schools.

I urge you to support full funding for Akron Public Schools. The Fair School Funding Plan, with updated cost calculations, will ensure that our students receive the education they need to thrive and contribute to our community's prosperity.

Thank you for your commitment to our future.

Sincerely,

Matt Neidert

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