

Monday 2/24/25

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 Julie Weinandy. I am a 62-year-old woman who has been married for 41 years, a nurse for 40 years, a mother of 7 and grandmother of 9. I am currently instructing nursing students in the lab at Owens Community College. I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

My husband and I were incredibly blessed to be able to give our children a private Catholic education for grade school, high school and college. Along the way, our family sacrifices were augmented by generous school scholarships, FASFA, and resident advisor programs that were afforded our children during their high school and college years. At different points in time, some of our children did attend public school in person and on-line. We found the public school system to be responsive and accommodating to our children's needs. During this time, we wished for the success of and supported our local school levies while we paid our property taxes and our tuitions. Not all families are in a position to provide private education for their children and their children deserve the resources afforded them in the public schools.

I want all my neighborhood children and my grandchildren to succeed and that can only begin with a strong, well-funded public school system.

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.

Respectfully,

Julie Weinandy