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House Education Committee:

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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 Rebecca Moates. I am a Nurse Practitioner, and have worked in health care for 18 years. My husband and I are both Air Force veterans. After our military service, we moved to Loveland due to the strong public schools for our 4 children. We have worked hard to be educated citizens and we are proud to call Ohio home. I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

I spent my childhood strongly influenced by the academic world. My Grandmother (retired now) was the director at a Montessori she helped open and advocates as well for their local public school district. All 4 grandparents worked at BGSU and were strong advocates of education. My Grandfather's favorite quote was, "The grandchildren deserve no less." This rings true for not only his grandchildren he tirelessly worked for but all children in the state of Ohio today.

As a mother and NP working in pediatrics, I have seen public schools create success stories for students across the board. The access to specialized services for our children with different abilities, the music programs that give a middle schooler a home and a community, the 3 year old with speech support needs, the child with ADHD who benefits from a 504, the gifted child being able to access a specialized teacher, these and many other examples are the reason we must continue to fully support our public schools in Ohio. There have been times when I have had the hard conversation with a parent where a private school was not able to give them these same resources. The public schools show up for all kids.

Our Ohio public schools support 90% of school children in the state. The Fair School Funding plan was enacted to help alleviate the unconstitutional levy system Ohio uses to tax local communities to offset state and federal costs. As someone who has worked hard to help get votes for private citizens to continue investing in our schools through operating levies, I think we can all agree across the board, Fair School Funding is a priority to continue. All this while Loveland City Schools is in the bottom 15% of state funding per pupil while the district is one of only 18, or top 3%, that achieved 5 stars in every category on the 2023-24 state report card.

While the majority of my Grandparents have passed on, I am encouraged by their legacy to continue to advocate for all children to be supported and we must support them through funding our public schools.

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.



Rebecca M. Moates
