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Ohio House Education Committee

77 South High Street

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Dear Members of the Ohio House Education Committee,

There is a child in Ohio right now who is holding on by a thread. They are bright, full of potential, and willing to work hard. But no matter how much effort they put in, they will never be able to outrun a system that refuses to invest in them.

I know this because I was that child.

I was the teenager who got up before the sun, packed my baby's diaper bag, and went to school, running on exhaustion but determined not to give up. I was the girl who sat through class with a job uniform under my hoodie, knowing that the second the bell rang, I would be rushing to work instead of going home to study. I was the student who wanted to succeed but had to fight for every inch of progress in a world that seemed determined to push me down.

I needed opportunities—desperately. But when funding is cut, opportunities disappear.

When you take money away from education, here's what happens:

Class sizes get bigger, and students don't get the attention they need to keep up.

Teachers burn out because they are expected to do more with fewer resources.

Schools cut programs that inspire students—like music, art, and career-tech training.

Tutoring and intervention programs disappear, leaving struggling students to fall further behind.

College and career guidance suffers, leaving students with no clear path forward.

And you know who pays the price? Not the kids whose parents can afford private tutoring, extracurricular activities, or specialized programs. No, it's the kids like I was—the ones who need the system to work for them because they have no backup plan.

I made it through, but it shouldn't have been that hard.

I became a nurse because I wanted to help people. And I see, every single day, how a lack of education limits a person's future. People who don't get the schooling they need struggle to find stable jobs. They struggle with their health. They struggle to navigate the world because no one gave them the tools they needed when they were young.

Education is not an expense to be trimmed—it is an investment that pays back in every way imaginable. It creates a stronger workforce, a healthier population, and a safer, more stable society. Cutting school funding might save money today, but the cost down the road is immeasurable.

So, I ask you: What kind of Ohio do you want to create?

Do you want a state where children have every opportunity to succeed, where schools are places of hope and possibility? Or do you want a state where a child's future is determined not by their potential, but by whether their school had the funding to give them a fair chance?

When you vote, I want you to picture a student like me—someone who is balancing school, work, and life in ways that would break most adults. Ask yourself: Are you opening doors for them, or are you slamming them shut?

This is your moment to stand up for Ohio's children. Reject these funding cuts. Expand school funding. Invest in opportunity. Invest in our kids.

Because if you don't, who will?

Sincerely,

Maranda Osborne