

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 Cynthia Bransford, I am a resident of district 56. I'm here to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

I'm writing as a proud graduate of Ohio's public schools; a Deer Park Wildcat, with deep personal ties to the system that shaped my life. My children, who are graduates of Mason City schools, have experienced firsthand the transformative power of a quality public education. I firmly believe there is no greater investment we can make for our community than ensuring our children receive the best education possible.

It is alarming to note that Ohio now ranks 45th in what we provide for public education—a steep decline from our 35th ranking just ten years ago. This drop isn't just a statistic; it represents diminished resources, strained classroom environments, and lost opportunities for students who deserve better. Every child deserves a school system that prepares them for the future, and when our public schools are underfunded, our entire community suffers.

I urge you to join me in advocating for increased investments in our schools. By strengthening our public education system, we are not only empowering our children but also investing in the future prosperity of our community.

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.

Cynthia Bransford