

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify remotely today. My name is Kelly Cocco. I am a lifelong Ohio Citizen and the mother of 3 children in the Loveland City School District ranging from High School to 2nd grade. I am the leader of our Loveland Elementary Parent Teacher Association and a consistently active voter in Clermont County.

I am writing to you today to ask for the following three things:

- Protect the guarantee for Loveland and similar districts
- Fully implement the Fair School Funding Plan, including the phase-in, and update the inputs.
- Increase the state share minimum from 10% to 20% to ensure that public education remains a shared state and local responsibility.

My husband and I both wanted to move back to our district once we started having children 15 years ago so that our children would have the opportunity to receive the same great public education that we both did many years ago. Due to the dedication and hard work of our district and its teachers, all three of our children are thriving at school and we are thrilled. I spend a lot of time volunteering in our school buildings and have a lot of first hand accounts of how hard our district employees work and the passion they put into everything they do. If we are to lose any of the critical state funding that we currently receive, our district will have to lay off some of these teachers and the quality of the education our children receive will suffer greatly. **We owe it to the next generation to do better!** The kids should not have to worry about losing their teachers, aides, or building staff just because of some outdated legislation.

I ask you to consider my testimony and urge you to 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.

Kelly Cocco - Proud Mother of Ohio Public Education Students

kellycocco@gmail.com

513-617-7834