

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

Thank you for your attention to my written testimony regarding public school funding and the state budget currently under consideration. My name is Holly Rush-Earle and I am the proud product of Ohio public schools. I am also the parent of a high school freshman who attends the same public school I attended. I also am a former public high school teacher, so I have experience on two sides of this issue.

I am asking that the committee fully fund public schools by including the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget, and that it do so by basing the funding on the actual costs of educating actual students, including those with special needs, by updating the funding formula to current costs. The current budget bases funding on 2022 costs. This is unfair to districts receiving the funding and to taxpayers who will have to make up the difference via levies/property tax increases.

Further, adding more funding for private and charter school vouchers, while insinuating there may not be enough funding available for public schools is wrong and violates the promise of a free public education. Instead, more and more is being asked of local taxpayers through levies and property taxes. This creates unnecessary animosity and suspicion between taxpayers and their public schools, which in general are extremely responsible and only want to educate students.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please support the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools by including the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget, and by basing funding on current costs. Thank you.