

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 Jennifer Shaftel I am a former teacher, a parent, and a Loveland, Ohio taxpayer. I'm writing to urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

Should you approve DeWine's budget, you are crippling the public school system on which 90% of this state's children depend. Instead, you're choosing to reward the minority of students, most from wealthy families, who are already sending their children to private schools. You are funneling taxpayer dollars into (often religious) private education while requiring absolutely no accountability to ensure the schools meet the most basic educational standards. For a party calling for transparency, this is as hypocritical as it gets. Private schools have endowments, donors. and churches to fund them. The public schools have no such safety net. You seek to fund <10% of students in Ohio at the expense of 90%. No matter how you view it, that's a poor investment.

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.

Jennifer Shaftel