

Dear Chairpersons,

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective. My name is Sherlynn Allen-Harris, and I am a semi-retired educator with over 30 years of experience teaching in Ohio's public schools. Today, I write to strongly urge the committee to continue implementing the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in Ohio's budget.

Fair and adequate funding for public schools is essential to the growth and prosperity of our state. More than 85% of Ohio's students attend public schools, which serve a divergent range of educational needs. Without equitable funding, many schools will struggle to provide the quality instruction our students deserve. As a high school social studies teacher, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of a well-funded education—seeing my students graduate, pursue higher education, and return to Ohio as productive, engaged members of society.

A strong public education system is not just an investment in our children; it is an investment in Ohio's future. An educated citizenry strengthens our economy, enhances our communities, and ensures the long-term wellbeing of our state. I urge you to support the 90% of Ohio's students who rely on public education by continuing to phase in the Fair School Funding Plan.

Thank you again for your time and for considering my testimony.