

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 Daniel White. I am a citizen of the City of Delaware currently living in the Delaware City School District, one of the hundreds of publicly funded school districts in the state. I'm submitting my testimony to urge the committee to continue phasing the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget.

As a lifetime resident of the state of Ohio, I have had a first-hand experience of the benefits of publicly funded schooling. We have undertaken an ambitious plan to ensure that each of our children have an opportunity to get a quality education to prepare them for future successes both academically and socially. I would not be the person that I am today without the opportunities public school provided me. I spent my four years of high school participating in a handful of extracurricular activities including: Mock Trial, Track & Field, Model UN; each one of these clubs provided me opportunities to learn & grow into a well-rounded person & allowed me to attend the college of my choice. My story is not an uncommon one & every child in Ohio deserves opportunities similar to ones that I was offered. Even now, I have a newborn child that will be entering the public school system in a few years & he deserves opportunities to learn and grow in a positive environment as does every child in the public school system.

Over 90% of children in Ohio attend public schools, and the proposed funding plan will ensure that school districts are funded in a sustainable and sensible manner. Currently, school district funding doesn't take account of the wealth of the citizens within each district & the shifting home ownership trends in the state as a whole. With nearly 34% of Ohioans living in rental properties (Ohio Housing Finance Agency) in 2023, the current model of funding schools based almost entirely on property values underrepresents many Ohio taxpayers. The Fair School Funding Plan will ensure that both property values & citizen income is taken into account to determine school funding.

I ask you to consider my testimony and choose to support the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools. Please continue phasing the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Daniel White

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