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 Anne Fleischer. I am an occupational therapist and teacher. I live in Cincinnati. I urge the committee to continue phasing the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget.

I support the Fair School Funding Plan because it provides a fair, predictable and reliable means of meeting students' needs. This formula is about preparing our students for success and strengthening our communities. When our schools thrive, our communities thrive, our economy thrives, and Ohio thrives.

I appreciate that Governor DeWine chose to include the final two years of the phase-in as a part of his budget proposal (reaching 83% in fiscal year (FY) 26 and 100% in FY 27). The full implementation of this plan is essential to promoting funding equity across districts.

It is equally important that the funding formula remains responsive to real-time economic changes by regularly updating base cost inputs. Without regular updates to base cost inputs, the formula becomes imbalanced, shifting a greater financial burden onto local taxpayers and undermining the formula's goal of equitable funding distribution.

I respectfully request that the House:

> • ***Maintain the phase-in as proposed by Governor DeWine.***
>
> • ***Amend HB 96 to use FY 24 data for formula inputs, as this represents the most current data reflecting educational costs.***
>
> • ***Add a provision ensuring that updates to local capacity measures in future years will trigger updates for the inputs data.***
>
> • ***Maintain guarantees until the formula has been fully implemented, including updates to categorical funding based on the state-commissioned cost studies.***

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.

Sincerely,

Anne Fleischer