

Dear Representatives:

I'm sure over the next couple of months you will be hearing many stories from individuals about this budget. There are some good things about it, but overall it is very depressing for Ohio's children and schools. Four years ago the Fair Funding Act was passed by both houses and both parties. This budget year was to be the final or third year phase in. Instead we are seeing more cuts made to public schools and more money going to charter/private schools. There was a guarantee in there originally that we could not get less money than the year before, but most public schools are. The Medina City School District will see anywhere from a \$1 million to 2.5 million cut over the next two years. We just barely passed a levy after 3 tries and we can not absorb that kind of loss and maintain a quality school system. If this proposed budget passes imagine how many levies will be on the ballot in November.

Over 90% of school age children attend public schools. The rest are home schooled, attend charter schools or public schools yet the state does little to see if that 10% meet the standards that the other 90% must meet. Another way to look at this is that less than 90,000 children are getting almost 1 billion dollars while 1.6 million get 16 million dollars. If you put all that money together which you obviously have and divide it by the number of students every student should get (private or public) \$8,200. If this committee would recommend that, where everyone gets an equal amount, school boards could pull off levies that they are collecting on and people's property taxes could drop.

I see this issue as an either or: you are either going to have schools going broke or taxpayers losing their homes and coming after you. Medina has more people over the age of 60 than under the age of 60. Most of these individuals are on fixed incomes and have no more to give. While they believe in public education they do not want their tax dollars going to private schools. Most of those students were already enrolled and their parents have the money and are just collecting it for their next vacation. Remember the constitution says "you are to support common schools" which John Bricker in 1933 as attorney general of the state ruled common schools **are** public schools - nothing else.

I implore you to increase the amount that is given to public schools. The Governor is not using the correct numbers in his budget. He is using the 2022 numbers not the 2024 numbers nor is he taking into account inflation which skews the numbers. This is your chance to be on the right side of history. Take that step.

Thank you,

Jeanne Pritchard

Medina, Ohio