

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

My name is Kathleen McGorray. As a lifelong Ohioan, I proudly spent my career in education as a teacher and school principal in Ohio public schools.

I am writing to urge you to continue fully phasing the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget and to supply the resources needed to provide every Ohio public school student with a high-quality education, an education worthy of Ohio citizens.

As you know, 90% of Ohio students attend public schools. These students deserve schools that are properly and constitutionally funded.

During my long career, I was proud to educate students from every economic background, students whose parents could offer them every opportunity as well as students whose parents struggled to provide basic necessities for their children. I proudly served students who were deemed cognitively "gifted" and those who were considered cognitively disabled. The dedicated educators with whom I worked were devoted to providing an excellent education for ALL students, no matter their socio-economic background or innate abilities.

Ohio must ensure that all of our public-school students have the resources and supports they need to succeed in school and in life. The fully-phased Fair School Funding Plan will provide fair and sustainable school funding, with a reliable, predictable, and equitable system. This plan funds education based on what it truly costs to provide students with the resources they need to succeed. It offers all students access to the high-quality education that all students deserve.

As a fellow Ohioan and a career Ohio educator, I strongly urge you to choose to support the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools and to strengthen Ohio communities by continuing to fully phase the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.