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Chair Fowler, Vice Chair Odioso, and members of the Education Committee of the Ohio House of Representatives:

I am a taxpayer in Columbus City Schools, as well as a teacher within the district. I am in opposition to the shortfall of over a \$100 million dollars to public schools over the next two years. I am in support of fully funding Ohio's public schools with the Fair School Funding Plan in the budget bill, and not extending funding to vouchers and for-profit charters that are publicly-funded but privately run.

I have been around long enough to know about DeRolf and the long road it took to finally get schools funded in Ohio just a few short years ago. Now, Governor DeWine thinks its okay to strip our public schools, once again, of this funding. According to a February 19th article by the Dayton Daily News written by Ellen McLory, traditional public schools, where 1.48 million students attend, will lose over \$100 million in funding over the next two years. Yet, private schools and publicly funded, privately run profit-making charter schools with less than 200 thousand students will receive over \$265 million and \$221 million respectively. This is unfair and, I would argue, unconstitutional. "The Ohio Constitution says that the General Assembly "will secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state; but no religious or other sect, or sects, shall ever have any exclusive right to, or control of, any part of the school funds of this state." Public schools should be fully funded and not rely on higher property taxes.

This reduction will be very impactful to all public schools, especially Columbus City Schools, a district where I reside and teach. DeRolf was important litigation. Unfortunately, the state legislature refused to abide the ruling of the Ohio Supreme Court four times. The Court ruled that school districts rely too heavily on property taxes and this is unconstitutional. Two years ago, the community members of Columbus City Schools, including myself and my family, passed a school levy that increased my taxes nearly 40%. Now, this proposed state decrease will erase the money from the school levy. It will impact programs and Columbus City Schools budget. This is unfair to the students, families, and taxpayers of Columbus City Schools. As a taxpayer in Ohio, I pay taxes for my school district. As a resident of Columbus City Schools, I pay taxes for the schools. These taxes go to support the students of Columbus City Schools. This legislative body needs to do the right thing

and fully fund public schools not force this burden back to the taxpayers who already pay their fair share. It's unconstitutional. Our public schools and the 1.4 million students that attend them deserve better.

Sincerely,
Traci C. Cottrell