

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 Maria Stansbury. I am a speech-language pathologist in Bay Village City Schools. I work with children who have disabilities and also those that do not, and I know that all children need as much support as they can get. I'm here to urge the committee to continue phasing the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget.

As a speech-language pathologist, my work with several grade levels allows me to see children over several years. The needs do not decrease as they get older. The support required to help them access the curriculum and achieve their goals does not change. I also work with students who are "at-risk" for academic struggles. Materials and qualified staff are absolutely critical in order to reach and teach ALL students in each classroom. Fair funding is how this happens.

Our teachers and staff need your help to continue building Ohio's future. All aspects of our childrens' development are supported and nurtured in our schools. I see this first hand, both as a parent and an educator.

Thankfully, a bipartisan committee was designed to do exactly that – properly fund and support ALL students' education. Please continue phasing the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Maria Stansbury