

Submitted by:

Paulette Corbett

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to present this written testimony in regards to H.B. Bill 96

As the mother of 6, grandmother of 19, former homeschooler, and retired teacher of thousands of students in both public and parochial schools, I am very concerned about the funding of our public schools in Ohio. Although I attended parochial schools, sent my children to parochial schools, and homeschooled for five years, I have **ALWAYS** voted for public school levies.

Why? Because I believe that our society benefits from a well-educated populace. There is less crime, fewer people on public assistance and greater economic growth in areas with excellent public schools. I believe that all children deserve a good education, which equips them to positively contribute to our society by acquiring the sufficient skills necessary for gainful employment to support themselves and their families, and to contribute to a free and fair democracy.

Since 1997 in *DeRolph v State of Ohio*, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that Ohio's funding system was declared unconstitutional, because it failed to provide and distribute adequate resources for quality education across the state, and for its over-reliance on property taxes. When is the Ohio Assembly going to comply with the Court's decision? Twenty-eight years is a LONG time to formulate a plan that would adequately and fairly fund Ohio's public schools. The children of Ohio deserve our optimal efforts! I would hope that political differences could be put aside to do what is best for ALL the children of Ohio.

Respectfully,

Paulette Corbett