

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 96
House Education Committee
March 4, 2025

Clarissa Kornell, Parent

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

Thank you for receiving my testimony today. My name is Clarissa Kornell. I am the parent of a first and fourth grader in Akron Public Schools. I am writing in support of fully funding Ohio's public schools in the state's current budget bill.

I am a proud graduate of Akron Public Schools. I know first-hand, the powerful impact of a high-quality public education. As a parent, I chose to enroll my children in Akron Public Schools because I am confident in the quality of education and training that the teachers Akron Public Schools receive, and I value the breadth of services and programming that a system like Akron Public Schools can offer my children and our city.

Akron Public Schools, like public schools across the state of Ohio, play a central role in strengthening the fabric of our community. If there is any doubt about this, recall the impact that school closures had on families and the economy at the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic. While emergency funding following the pandemic enabled schools to continue and expand programs that support student growth and wellbeing, those funds have now expired. This, along with rising costs and increasing needs for our students across the state, have stretched our schools too thin, placing our communities at risk for increased economic instability and crime. Numerous studies have identified a correlation between participation in education and economic stability, as well as public safety.

As a parent and as an Ohioan, I am asking you to vote yes and commit to funding the remaining portion of the Fair School Funding Plan, as agreed to with the passage of the Cupp Patterson bill. I am also asking you to update the funding formula within the Fair School Funding Plan so that cost calculations will be updated over time to keep pace with inflation and market rates, and provide a more accurate cost calculation.

Ohio has a long history as a leader in public education, dating back to the early 1800s. This is something to be proud of. I hope you will do your part to continue our legacy.

Thank you for this opportunity.