

Dear Members of the Ohio House Education Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose any proposed cuts to Ohio's public school funding. As a mother of four children, three of whom attend Parma City Schools, I have seen firsthand the challenges our districts face. I am especially concerned about the impact these cuts will have on students like mine, who rely on specialized support to succeed.

The financial strain on families across Ohio is already immense, with rising costs of food, housing, and utilities. If these cuts pass, schools will either have to ask families for more money or reduce essential programs, further burdening those already struggling. Governor Mike DeWine's proposed budget, in line with HB 96, freezes the base cost at 2022 levels and reduces the funding guarantee. While this freeze may not seem like a direct cut, it effectively reduces funding in real terms as inflation and costs continue to rise, putting additional strain on districts across the state.

We need to continue fair school funding at current costs and prepare for inflation. Without adjusting funding to reflect the realities of today's economic climate, districts will struggle to meet the needs of their students, especially those who require additional support.

I urge you to include the third phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget, with updated cost calculations. Investing in the third phase of this plan is investing in the future of Ohio's children, including those with disabilities like mine. Every student deserves the chance to thrive, and this plan provides the necessary resources to make that happen.

Please consider the long-term consequences of these cuts. Every dollar invested in our children's future is an investment in Ohio's future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I strongly urge you to reconsider these cuts and ensure the inclusion of the third phase of the Fair School Funding Plan to support Ohio's students with updated cost calculations.

Sincerely,

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