

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 Dean Prall. I am a parent, homeowner, and advocate for public education living in the Olentangy Local School District in Delaware County. I am here to not only urge the committee to continue phasing in the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) but to update the cost inputs to the base cost calculation within the FSFP.

As a volunteer with the Olentangy Schools, I see first-hand the impact of the tremendous student growth within our schools and as a homeowner I feel the pain of property tax increases. As a parent of a high school student, I am deeply concerned with our school district's ability to continue offering the important courses and experiences necessary to compete in today's workforce. Were the General Assembly to not implement the FSFP with cost updates, it is estimated that Olentangy schools would lose \$8 million in funding during the 2025-2026 school year. This would leave the local community-- including so many retired citizens--to continue to make up the difference in funding. Olentangy Schools is a top performer in the state of Ohio receiving a 5-star ranking on the Ohio Report Card, and the district already spends less per student than comparable districts (and less than the state average) while receiving less per student than those comparable districts (and \$4,700 less per student than the state average). But we must have sufficient funding from the State to continue this level of excellence and develop Ohio's next generation of productive, innovative citizens.

Ohio must prioritize our students as they are truly our future. Continuing the phasing in of the FSFP and updating the data inputs is a step in the right direction to that goal.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Dean Prall

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