

Testimony for the HB96

Fair School Funding Plan

March 3, 2025

Maureen D. Welch 8195 Guilford Road, Seville, OH 44273 mosie5838@gmail.com

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to send written testimony. My name is Maureen Welch. I am wife, mother, grandmother and an Ohio tax payer and I live in Southern Medina County on a small farm. I'm writing to urge the committee to continue phasing the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget.

I am very concerned about Governor DeWine's proposed budget and its failure to adequately fund the public schools that 90% of Ohio's children attend. America has funded public schools to provide opportunities to all students, but because of the way Ohio funds schools, not all children receive the same opportunities. The Ohio Fair School Funding Plan is based on studies that show where and how disparities in the schools in Ohio can be shored up with targeted programs and funding. I want my tax dollars going to Ohio's public schools which admit and will provide opportunities to all children with all abilities and in all communities.

I want my tax dollars to support public schools and not voucher programs. Most students in Ohio attend schools where there is a lack of private school options. According to the Fair Plan Funding School Work Group,

"While 90 percent of Ohio's students attend traditional public schools, these districts receive only 76 percent of total funding, a growing imbalance that places greater financial pressure on local taxpayers.

Meanwhile, the state's voucher program, as well as charter and STEM schools, will see double-digit funding increases, redirecting state resources away from the vast majority of students....and "For the first time in modern history, Ohio lawmakers have a comprehensive review and a full set of resources at their fingertips to guide school funding decisions. The Fair School Funding Plan is Ohio's funding formula, established in law and overwhelmingly approved by both Democrats and Republicans with the authorization of HB 110 in 2021 and again with HB

33. This roadmap provides a data-driven, research-based approach to funding education, ensuring that financial decisions reflect the real costs of providing a high-quality education to all students."

Ohio MUST use taxpayer dollars to fund our public schools, educate all of our children, and secure a better future for Ohio.

I ask you to consider my testimony and choose to support the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools. Please continue phasing the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.