**Written Testimony RE HB 96**
**March 3, 2025**

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Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Education Committee, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding HB 96.

My name is Kelly Lund. I'm a constituent who resides in Clermont County who has dedicated my professional career supporting Ohio's youth in the nonprofit space – including a large number of underprivileged children.

It is a fundamental belief of mine that all Ohio children receive an equal opportunity for quality education – regardless of their zip code. I'm writing to urge the committed to continue phasing the bipartisan **Fair School Funding Plan** into Ohio's budget.

By incorporating the Fair School Funding Plan in the budget, we will ensure that economically disadvantaged youth will have access to an education that best sets them up for success as adults and future generations.

I'm especially in favor of providing access to high-quality preschool as early education fosters a foundation that enables children to thrive both academically as well as in their physical, social and emotional health. Special Education is also vitally important.

Studies show that children who participate in early learning programs are 25% more likely to graduate high school. Early childhood education can also mitigate circumstances that improve a child's development and reduce a need for special education placement by 10%.

Increasing graduation rates and reducing individuals requiring special needs intervention is both morally and fiscally responsible as graduates enter the workforce.

While not perfect, our public school system is relied upon by 90% of students across Ohio.

I urge you to support access to a quality for all Ohio youh, regardless of their zip code or economic status.

Please continue phasing the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely

Kelly Lund