

Testimony HB 96
Ohio Education Committee
March 3, 2025
Submitted by Rita Williams

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill (HB) 96.

I am asking for your support for the Fair School Funding Plan. I have had four children graduate from Ohio schools and a fifth is currently a high-school student. Our schools have struggled for as long as I can remember with budgets.

Since 2011, my own district, the Aurora School district, has consistently achieved outstanding ratings from the State of Ohio, even though the revenue received from the State, as a percentage of our budget, has consistently declined.

There is an opportunity, with this year's budget, to ensure schools receive **100% of the funding they deserve**. The current proposal is using cost calculation figures based on 2022 figures. These do not reflect today's higher costs and funding based on 2024 figures is needed.

I am sending this to ask that you fully support the Fair School Funding Plan and to also protect the “guarantee” from being reduced, allowing Ohio students to have the resources they need. Every day, in this state, thousands of educators and students go to school. They all deserve to have what they need to succeed and the State of Ohio can do this, if the will is there.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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