

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 96

Senate / House Education/Finance Committee

March 3, 2025

Julie Linz

Chair Fowler, Vice Chair Odioso and members of the Education committee of the Ohio House of Representatives:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Julie Linz

I am a parent at Clinton Elementary and reside in Clintonville. I am in support of fully funding Ohio's public schools in the budget bill.

The Fair School Funding Plan is supported by educators, parents, school administrators, and local leaders across Ohio. The Fair School Funding Plan funds schools more fairly by taking into account the different needs in Ohio's small towns, large suburbs, big cities, and rural communities. Without fully phasing in the Fair School Funding Plan, districts will continue to over-rely on property taxes – placing districts with low property values at a severe disadvantage, and hamstringing those that are rapidly growing. Gov. DeWine's budget proposal still shortchanges our kids. Using 2022 costs makes no sense to me as a parent trying to budget for a household - how can it make sense for our schools?

Every kid deserves a fair shot at a great education - for some that means different kinds of support. A parent can no predict what help their child may need down the road so it's imperative that schools be funded so they can help address all children's needs. The state is constitutionally required to provide that to all kids. Private schools get to pick and choose what kids they serve. - With many voters feeling the squeeze of higher property values and rising costs, half of Ohio's local school levies failed this past cycle. Without the Fair School Funding Plan, districts will have even fewer resources to prepare children to succeed.

I am testifying so every child in Ohio has a fair chance and equal chance at an education that will help them succeed as adults in country were so many never get that opportunity.

I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote yes to funding the Fair School Funding Plan.

Thank you.

Julie Linz