

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 Mary Giovanetti. I am a mother to two children, and a social worker. I'm here to urge the committee to continue phasing the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget.

As a social worker, I have worked with public schools as a mental health services coordinator and a provider of therapy. I worked with children ages 3 to 14, along with parents, teachers, and school administrators. The schools I worked in needed every single resource to function - from the janitorial workers, the cafeteria workers, the "front line" office, the intervention teams, the safety officers, every teacher and administrator.

When trying to coordinate services for a child, it took connecting with all the different teams in the school to connect to and learn about a child and family. I would connect with the intervention teams because often the child was on their radar. The teacher had the unique relationship with the child and could tell you details about what that child was experiencing in the classroom. The administrators had valuable information about the family. Even the cafeteria or janitorial staff connected with the children.

To take away monetary resources from public schools means stretching staff even thinner. Our children need help. Our public schools need money. Our schools desperately need support to thrive, not to be choked into nonexistence.

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.