

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 Sarah Sachs and I am writing to urge you to **continue phasing in the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) to ensure that every Ohio student has access to a high-quality education—regardless of their ZIP code**. As a software engineer with 15 years of experience, I have worked with businesses, churches, government entities, and educational institutions across Ohio. My work has given me a unique perspective on how equitable funding impacts education, workforce development, and economic growth in our state.

In my field, access to technology and strong foundational education is critical. Yet, I have seen firsthand how underfunded schools lack the resources to equip students with modern technical skills—skills that are essential for Ohio’s workforce and future economy. Studies show that states with fairer school funding see better long-term economic outcomes, including higher graduation rates, increased earnings, and lower crime rates. In contrast, Ohio’s historic over-reliance on local property taxes has deepened disparities between districts, with wealthier areas able to provide cutting-edge STEM programs, advanced coursework, and technology access—while lower-income districts struggle to meet basic educational needs.

The FSFP was designed to fix these inequities by calculating the actual cost of educating a child and ensuring that state funding keeps pace with real-world costs. However, Gov. DeWine’s current budget proposal relies on outdated 2022 cost data, which, due to inflation, effectively cuts funding in real dollars. If the state fails to update these inputs, local taxpayers will bear the burden, forcing more school districts to rely on levies just to maintain essential services. This is not a sustainable solution.

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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Sachs