

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 Katelyn Bader.

I am a parent at King Elementary and actively involved in the Parents and Teachers Association. I am writing to express that I am in support of fully funding Ohio's public schools in the budget bill.

A successful education is only as strong as the support our community receives. When our funding gifts children with securities such as adequately sized classrooms set up to meet every student's unique needs, a trustworthy consistent routine of reliable transportation, playgrounds to channel their restless energy and hone in their focus, air conditioning/heating to keep learning atmospheres comfortable and non-distracting, we are funding our future. We are setting up tiny humans for success to discover their potential and grow up to make our community stronger.

My son used to struggle with reading, finding himself struggling to meet his grade's standards. Ever since King Elementary started hosting Family Reading Nights, and implemented a book vending machine, he found himself with a new inspired motivation. While I work with him every night at home, I have noticed dramatic improvements in his reading since King implemented its new and exciting incentives to engage kids in reading. Now, my son is on track and loves reading about the solar system. He now dreams of working on space rovers for Mars one day.

This bill would have a substantial impact on our community. Our school sees a lot of low-income families with children that rely on the quality of support they receive at King Elementary to grow and truly thrive.

Once again, I would like to express I am in full support of fully funding Ohio's schools. The future of our community critically depends on it.

Thank you,

Katelyn Bader