

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 Cameron Kish. I am a 15 year old student at Normandy High school in Parma. I'm here to urge the committee to continue phasing the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget.

I have been to 5 different schools from kindergarten to now tenth grade. I grew up absolutely loving school. My mom is a teacher and my whole life she taught me to take school not only seriously but as a place where you can have fun and make opportunities for yourself. I grew up in North Olmsted but unfortunately was not there for my high school experience. I've been at Normandy for three years now, eighth through tenth grade. And in my free time I love to play volleyball, read and more.

Parma is by no means a wealthy city. The money that our school gets isn't always from the tax levies. Many teachers and staff members go out of their way to do stuff or get stuff for our school. And while that's heartwarming and very generous, it shouldn't have to happen. Not all people can afford to vote yes on the levies, which is a problem. Our school shouldn't depend on what other people can afford. The opportunities students get shouldn't depend on other people.

Around 25% of students rely on some sort of scholarship, weather sports, or academics, etc. in Ohio. The more money that the state puts into schools, the more opportunities open up for students. An example being me, I have wanted to go to OSU for years now and I am hoping I can get a ride on an academic scholarship. I've enrolled myself in honors classes and have worked extra hard to make sure that my grades are good. My hope is to go into one of the many medical options and thank goodness my school has a medical health professions CTE. However not all schools have career tech. education programs. These are funded by the city.

My schools has such a great community, I have so many friends and love all my teacher's. But I want so much more than what our school has to offer. More extracurriculars and more opportunities for kids to figure out who they want to be. Our school support system is amazing but many staff and faculty members rely on their own money. I have struggled with self-harm and if it weren't for my amazing counselor here at Normandy who went out of her way to make sure I was okay, with her own time and money for certain things, I wouldn't be here today. Our school needs more money from the government instead of what people here can afford. It almost feels like a joke, hoping and praying people can vote yes on levies to make our school a lot better than it already is. It's extremely upsetting.

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.