

**Interested Party Testimony for House Bill 96**  
**House Education Committee**  
**March 4, 2025**

**Jamie Cordes, Columbus City Schools Parent**

To Chair Fowler, Vice Chair Odioso, and members of the 2025 Education Committee of the Ohio House of Representatives:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you. I'm Jamie Cordes. I have two children in Columbus City Schools, one at Columbus Gifted Academy and one at Clinton Elementary. I am invested in the outcome of this bill as both a parent and a member of the Columbus community. I am writing today because I adamantly support the full funding of Ohio's public schools in the upcoming budget bill.

My two sons both love their experiences at Columbus City Schools. They have been nurtured and challenged in school every day, and as a result, they are both thriving academically and socially. They love their schools, their teachers, and the opportunities that school has afforded for them to grow as unique individuals. Both of my sons have also benefitted most because their teachers have identified them as gifted students and have provided additional gifted enrichment. I've also seen their friends and peers who are identified as gifted struggle in traditional classroom and school settings. Identification, pull-out services, and placement at Columbus Gifted Academy have been nothing short of a life-changing experience for these students and their families. This is the result of systems and staffing at Columbus City Schools: assessment, identification, certified Gifted Intervention Specialists, and the Columbus Gifted Academy program. I fear that the proposed budget cuts to Columbus City Schools would jeopardize these systems, staffing models, and programs.

Also, these proposed cuts to education budgets would disproportionately threaten Columbus City Schools' most vulnerable students and families. It is the responsibility of the community - our shared civic responsibility - to protect our most vulnerable members. Vital programs like Transportation, free meals, Summer enrichment experiences, elective courses in performing arts, PBIS programming, community outreach, and early literacy initiatives all exist outside Tier 1 instruction, but they make our district strong and supportive.

Today, I testify as a parent, on behalf of my children, but also on behalf of the children of all Columbus City Schools and children across Ohio. I ask that you please consider my testimony and that you vote to fully fund public schools in Ohio.

Thank you.

Jamie Cordes