

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 96

House Education Committee

3/3/2025

Haley Starvaggi

2025 Education Committee:

Chair Fowler, Vice Chair Odioso:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Haley Starvaggi. I am a parent at King CLC, an elementary school that is part of the Akron Public Schools. I am writing to urge your continued support in fully funding of Ohio's public schools in this budget bill.

I have three kids, two are old enough to attend public school. My oldest daughter, Dorothy, really connected her 1st grade year with one of our building support staff. The title of this person's position in our building is IB coordinator. My daughter connected with her because she wanted to know how many bricks it took to build our school and this educator supported her inquiry, she invited her to come in on her recess and work with a 5th grade student to see the answer. They contacted the architect who designed our building, and when they didn't have the answer, they used math to make an estimate. As a young student this really helped my daughter develop a love of learning and a connection to the school community. Due to recent funding cuts this particular staff member is now splitting her time between two schools and I fear it is these individual opportunities to foster a love of learning, the ability to ask and answer questions, and multi-grade teamwork will not exist for the next grade levels of students. I personally saw how valuable this experience was for my daughter and how funding can impact these everyday for these students and staff members.

I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote yes to funding the Fair School Funding Plan.

Thank you,

Haley Starvaggi