

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Education Committee. My name is Meghan Haar and I am writing today to testify on House Bill 96.

For fifteen years I have served as a Youth Services Librarian in Northwest Ohio and I have had the opportunity to work with dozens of children as they pursue their education. I have worked in districts experiencing economic struggle and districts with high incomes. I have seen the effects that low funding has on the education of students and the ripples that it makes throughout the community. How are students supposed to be given the education they need when it's a struggle to get the most basic supplies? When their electives are cut and even the most bare bones programs are run on a shoe string budget? When teachers are forced to decide between continuing their chosen careers or being able to pay their bills?

I am urging the House Education Committee to listen to and implement the suggestions of the Ohio Education Association, Ohio Association of School Business Officials and every educator that has submitted their testimony today. They are making requests and suggestions based on their own needs and experiences, as well as compensating for changes in the economics of Ohio. Their insight is valuable, and should be treated as such. Thank you for your time and attention.