

**Proponent Testimony for House Bill [96]
House Education Committee
Tuesday, March 4, 2025**

Megan Moreland, Public School Parent & President, Case CLC PTA

Chair Fowler, Vice Chair, Vice Chair Odioso and members of the Education committee of the Ohio House of Representatives:

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony. My name is Megan Moreland. I am a parent at Akron Public Schools, the president of an elementary school PTA, and an engaged mother and community member in Akron, Ohio. I write in support of fully funding Ohio's public schools in the budget bill.

As a homeowner in a fiscally challenged school district, I voted in support of a recent school levy. Given the rise in property taxes driven by the state, it was a hardship to vote in favor of the levy; however, our public schools are vital to the success of our community, so my family supported the levy and increase in taxes in order to bolster our schools. Fortunately, this levy passed, but it was not enough to cover a 5-year prospective shortfall and cuts are currently being considered by our local school board, including those to our imperative early learning program. My fear is that if the state takes further funding away, in addition to the federal threats of fund reductions, that our already strapped school district will be placed under additional undue burden.

Additionally, it has been published widely that nearly \$1 billion of state funds, our taxpayer dollars, have been redirected towards private schools via the voucher program. Although the intention of that program was to provide choice and competition, what the evidence has shown is that enrollment has not shifted, but rather, wealthier families have been able to take advantage of a taxpayer funded tuition subsidy.

I humbly ask that you consider rerouting the above mentioned funds towards our public school system so that all of our residents, urban and rural, are provided the best education possible. This would reduce crime, make our communities more attractive to businesses, and incentivise our young residents to remain in Ohio, because they would see that our state believes in them and is invested in their success.

Thank you for your time and considering my testimony. Please vote yes in support of the Fair School Funding Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Moreland

Akron, Ohio