

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Education Committee,

As a person who was well educated in public schools, taught in public schools, and am currently on the Fairfield County Educational Service Center governing board, I urge the committee to fully phase the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget, AFTER updating the base costs in the formula. Governor DeWine thinks he has fully followed the Fair School Funding Plan, but, because the base costs of student education have not been updated, he has not. His budget cuts over \$100 million from the funding for public education, possibly because rising real estate assessments have raised property taxes, shifting more of the burden from the state onto local districts.

Funding a thorough and efficient system of public education is a constitutional requirement in Ohio. As about 90% of students attend public schools, it is our legal responsibility to fund them adequately and our moral responsibility to improve them. As most students receiving vouchers were already in private schools, and come from families able to pay for them to be there, our expanded voucher system results in transfer of wealth upward toward people who already have more. The expansion of the voucher system will become increasingly unaffordable, and if not curbed, will undermine public education, as several states are already seeing.

Please fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan, AFTER updating the base costs of student education.