

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Sarah Fowler Arthur, Chairperson  
Ohio House of Representatives Education Committee  
77 South High Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding House Bill 96 and the cuts to public education funding in Governor DeWine's proposed state operating budget. As a parent of two children currently attending Columbus City Schools, I am deeply concerned about the potential impact of these budget cuts.

Under the proposed budget from the governor's office, the Columbus City School district stands to lose more than \$45 million over the next two school years. The governor's formula calculations include increased property tax valuations but fail to update the current costs to educate a child. According to the Ohio Education Policy Institute, state public schools could lose more than \$100 million under the proposal Governor DeWine introduced earlier this year, with 87% of public schools facing a reduction in budget. Specifically, according to the governor's proposed budget data, the Columbus City Schools district would lose around 10% of state funding each year over the next two years.

Columbus City Schools and other public school districts throughout Ohio serve an incredibly diverse body of students with a wide range of needs. I am especially concerned for students like my son, who has severe intellectual and developmental disabilities. Despite an already tight budget, the incredible educators, administrators, and support staff at Columbus City Schools provide the vital special education services that my child needs to thrive and be a member of society. Public schools play a crucial role in our communities, and it is imperative that we support them rather than undermine their efforts. Cutting the budget will severely hinder their ability to continue providing essential services and support to all students.

I urge the Ohio House Education Committee to reconsider the proposed budget cuts and prioritize the funding of public schools. The education and future of our children depend on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Janelle May  
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