

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Tiffany Underhile, and I am a public school teacher with 20 years of experience. I am here to urge the committee to fully phase in the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan as part of Ohio's budget.

I am a proud product of the Akron Public School District, which provided me with an excellent education and the foundation to pursue a degree in education at Baldwin-Wallace University. I have taught in both the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and, for the past 15 years, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. Throughout my career, I have witnessed firsthand the consequences of underfunded public schools. I have taught in overcrowded classrooms, used outdated textbooks, and worked with limited supplies. I have seen children living in poverty struggle to have their basic needs met, and I have observed how vouchers have hurt our school budgets, making it difficult to maintain adequate staffing levels to provide students with the education they deserve.

As a mother of three children who attend Parma City Schools, I have seen my own community suffer due to the inability to pass a new levy. Meanwhile, parents increasingly turn to universal vouchers and charter schools, which drain funding from our schools without requiring these institutions to put levies on the ballot.

I ask you to consider the impact on the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools. Please support the full phase-in of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan and include the necessary tools for its proper implementation in Ohio's budget.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and for your time and consideration.

*Sincerely,
Tiffany Underhile
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