

03/05/2025

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to give testimony concerning the proposed \$45M budget cut of state allocated funds to the Columbus City School district. My name is Ericka Sharp, I am an employee of Columbus City Schools. I work as an AP Specialist, my role is to pay incoming invoices for outstanding debt, bills, and vendors of the district.

The proposed cuts would not only deeply have an impact on the quality of education for every student in our district, but it will also be like the governor spit in and slapped the face of every voter, parent and resident of our district who agreed to the tax Levy for the BETTERMENT of our children. We are the largest school district in the state of Ohio. We, as a community just voted to "Anty UP" out of our pockets based on what was deemed needed to provide our children with what was called a "leading edge in" our children's education, building conditions and programs for the kids. These things are needed to provide the best opportunity for achievement for our students in terms of their education. What we as a community agreed to provide was an investment in the education of future generations of students of CCS and should not be eaten up in one big gulp by the gluttons of our government! Essentially, you are proposing to cut hope, dreams, promise and the edge of opportunity from the reach of kids in our district. This level of cuts will certainly affect the lives of every family in our community. Our students and their parents will not get the education they deserve; they are paying for and that we have promised to provide. The partner vendors and businesses that provide quality programing will be cut, affecting their families, employment in our state and putting an immediate strain on the local economy in our city, not to mention the stress and strain this will place on the mental health of our educators.

We want to equip our children to run a competitive race, making advancements and achievements in education. How can we equip them to run competitively with a crippled budget that can barely stand to provide but the basic needs of our students? A financial cut of this magnitude will push our district to its knees. We cannot afford to handicap our student body by providing less than we know they need to thrive. We cannot afford to diminish their hope, stifle their dreams or put muzzles on the promises that we have made as parents, educators, taxpayers and voters. This would equate to a loss for our students, a loss for the largest school district in the state of Ohio and a huge loss for education and a loss for future generations of Ohioans as a whole.

Sincerely,

Ericka Sharp,