

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Governor Mike DeWine's proposed House Bill 96, which would cut funding for public education in Ohio. As a school counselor working directly with students, I have witnessed firsthand the critical role that funding plays in the education system and how the lack of adequate resources severely impacts students, educators, and school communities.

Public education is the cornerstone of our society and our future. It provides all students—regardless of their background, socioeconomic status, or geographic location—the opportunity to succeed and thrive. However, I have seen the devastating effects that underfunding has already had on our schools. From stretched resources to increased teacher workloads and diminished student support services, schools across Ohio are already struggling to provide the quality education that every child deserves.

As a school counselor, I work directly with students on a daily basis to address their academic, social, and emotional needs. Many of our students face significant challenges—ranging from mental health issues to unstable home environments—and it is critical that schools have the necessary resources to support them. Without sufficient funding, schools simply do not have the capacity to offer the level of support that these students need to succeed. For example, many schools have reduced counseling staff or eliminated important programs such as mental health services, after-school tutoring, and extracurricular activities, all of which are essential in supporting students' development and well-being.

Further budget cuts to education would only exacerbate these issues. It would force districts to lay off staff, eliminate crucial programs, and reduce the services that our students depend on to excel both academically and emotionally. Cutting funding sends a harmful message to our communities that our children's futures are not a priority.

We need funding to ensure that our classrooms are equipped with the tools and resources necessary to foster a positive learning environment. We need funding to provide ongoing professional development for teachers, counselors, and school staff so that we can continue to address the diverse needs of our students. And, most importantly, we need funding to ensure that every student, no matter where they live, has access to a high-quality education that prepares them for success in life.

I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of cutting funding for public education in Ohio. The impacts on students, families, and communities would be profound and irreversible. I respectfully ask that you vote against House Bill 96 and protect the funding that our schools so desperately need.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Cundiff

School Counselor