

HB 96 Witness Testimony

March 10, 2025

I write to urge the House to support the full phase-in of the Fair School Funding formula, to update the base cost inputs of the formula, and most importantly, to advocate AGAINST the reduction of the guarantee, which ensures that Mentor Public Schools will continue to receive a consistent level of state funding year after year.

Without the guarantee and updated base cost inputs for the formula, Mentor Public Schools will not have the stability to financially plan for the years ahead, and the funding burden will then shift to the already-overburdened taxpayers of Mentor.

As a product of—and a parent of children who attend—public schools, I believe that investing in our public schools is essential for the future of our state and the success of our children, which is why I support them through my taxes. But we also need the state to do their part to adequately fund our public schools.

Public schools serve as the foundation of our communities, providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become productive, engaged citizens. Adequate funding ensures that schools can hire and retain qualified teachers, maintain safe and modern facilities, and offer a well-rounded curriculum that includes arts, sciences, and vocational training.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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