

## **Testimony for State Budget Bill**

House Finance Committee

March 11, 2025

### **Victoria Druley, Chair, Kids First Medina**

Members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Victoria Druley. I am a parent of four children in Medina City Schools and serve as the Chair of Kids First Medina, the levy committee for Medina City Schools. I am here today to advocate for a fully funded Fair School Funding Plan that uses current data to ensure that Medina City School District does not lose \$1 million in state funding.

I have seen firsthand the impact of underfunding on our district. After two levy failures, we experienced cuts to staff and programs. Medina made every effort to make cuts that would have the least impact on students, and now there are not any more cuts to make without drastically affecting the experience of our children. On the third attempt, our community narrowly passed a levy to preserve essential programs. Losing \$1 million in state funding now puts us back in a difficult position just months after we asked our community to stretch their budgets to support our schools. We cannot go back to our taxpayers again. The funding model must be adjusted to reflect current economic conditions so that districts like Medina are not unfairly penalized.

This issue does not just affect Medina. It affects communities across Ohio that rely on the Fair School Funding Plan. Without accurate, up-to-date funding inputs, schools will be forced to make cuts that hurt students, teachers, and families. A well-funded education system benefits everyone by preparing students for the workforce, supporting property values, and strengthening local economies. The state must fulfill its responsibility to fund public schools fairly, so we do not have to over-rely on local levies to fill the gaps.

I urge you to update the Fair School Funding Plan to reflect current data and prevent unnecessary financial losses for districts like Medina. Our students, families, and communities depend on a fair and stable funding model. Please ensure that Ohio's budget prioritizes public education in a way that is sustainable and equitable for all.

Thank you.