

**Linda A. Striefsky
2222 Delamere Drive
Cleveland, OH 44106**

**Written Testimony to Ohio House Finance Committee
Concerning Proposed Budget for Public School Funding**

The proposed Ohio budget fails to carry out the full phase 3 funding for Ohio public education.

Please consider:

- **90% of Ohio kids attend public schools. They deserve schools that are properly and constitutionally funded.**
- **Ohio's three-part, bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan took years to pass. Incredible amounts of research, edits, and debate went into it. Legislators from both sides of the aisle helped make it a reality.**
- **There is NO excuse for abandoning this plan now, in its final phase of implementation. Ohio has the money to fund this fully. Not funding it is a choice, and that would be a bad choice.**

Please support ONLY a state operating budget that includes the full, bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan and the updated inputs needed to do it properly.

Regarding the availability of funds for public education, the proposed budget includes yet more money for non public schools in the form of vouchers. There does not appear to be a cap on this funding, which is irresponsible. The so called "choice " argument for this funding of non public schools does not hold water. In no other realm of public funding does a resident have the right to demand a voucher in lieu of using a government program. I may not ask for a voucher for public transportation costs because I don't choose to use public transit. I may not ask for a voucher for buying books in lieu of using a public library. The voucher expansion is a tax rebate, in effect, and benefits wealthy families who are already using non public schools. I object to any and all state funding for non public education.

Again, please support ONLY a state operating budget that includes the full, bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan and the updated inputs needed to do it properly.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Striefsky

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