

**Proponent Testimony for House Bill 96**  
**House Finance Committee**  
**March 30, 2025**

**Jennifer Schrock, Vice President of the New Philadelphia Board of Education**

Chair Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla and members of the Finance committee of the Ohio House of Representatives:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Jennifer Schrock, Vice President of the New Philadelphia Board of Education. I am the mom of a 4th grader and a preschooler in the New Philadelphia City Schools District. I am writing to advocate for the full implementation of the Fair School Funding Formula with up to date inputs in the budget bill. In case you haven't noticed, things are a lot more expensive than they were in 2022. I am also asking that the guarantee stays in place, so those rural districts who depend on the guarantee can continue to educate students.

My son, Benjamin, is on a 504 plan and attends a Title Reading class for 30 minutes every day. My son, who dreaded reading time at home, now reads for fun. His grades and scores have improved. His success this year has nothing to do with me, his mother, and everything to do with his teachers. My son goes to school everyday in an environment where he is nurtured and challenged. If public schools are not fully funded, my son will lose his support. I cannot foresee my son's education continuing down this positive path if public education is not fully and fairly funded.

Ohio has the money. Stop giving out vouchers to families who do not need vouchers! Stop engaging in unconstitutional practices! Here is some basic math from my district: In the 2022-2023 school year, 61 students used vouchers. 52 of those 61 students were low income, that's 85.2% of students receiving vouchers were low income. Cut to the 2024-2025 school year: 12 of the 106 students with vouchers are low income. 11.3% of students who receive a voucher from the State of Ohio are part of a low income qualified family.

Despite state officials handing out vouchers like candy on Halloween, the vast majority of Ohioans don't want them! Parents want fully funded public schools. My district is on the ballot for money for new facilities, and if it passes, wow, what a party we'll have...but the celebration won't last long. We'll have to go right back to our voters with our hands out asking for money for an operating levy, not because of any financial irresponsibility on the

district's part- but because elected officials refused to listen to their constituents. Listen to us. Stop abusing the voucher system. Stop engaging in illegal practices. Fully fund public education...please.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Schrock