

Interested Party Testimony for House Bill 96
House Finance Committee
April 3rd, 2025

Tiana S. Lee, Parent

Chair Brian Stewart, Vice Chair Michael D. Dovilla and members of the Finance Committee of the Ohio House of Representatives:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Tiana S. Lee. I am a Parent to a 6th and 8th grader within the Columbus City Schools District. I am in support of fully funding Ohio's public schools in the budget bill.

I was looking at the grades for both of my daughters for the 2024-2025 school year. All three quarters both of my daughters received a P for Physical Education. The notes read "inconsistent teacher". I talked to my daughters about their grades, and both expressed to me that they are very unhappy with the fact that they are not being given a chance to participate in Physical Education classes. They are two middle school kids, who thrive on being able to release a little bit of energy at some point in their day. For them, Physical Education is not just another "class", it is a chance for them to build self-confidence and reassurance, an outlet for stress and anxiety, and a perfect atmosphere for them to connect with their peers socially outside of regular class instruction.

By fully implementing the fair school funding formula, Columbus City Schools would be able to hire more Educators to cover classes that are meant to cater to the "whole child". Please give our kids a chance to develop mentally, socially, psychologically, AND physically. Promoting life-long fitness and physical well-being is not just "another class", it is a setting that contributes to the start of lifelong habits. In addition to the points that I made above, I would also like to add that obesity is an issue that is most prevalent amongst middle school-aged children, and we must continue to combat this epidemic at an early age. Let's start by encouraging active play.

I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote yes to funding the Fair School Funding Plan.

Thank you,

Tiana S. Lee