

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

**Kari Suhadolnik, Board of Stow Munroe Falls Education**

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 Kari Suhadolnik.

I am a Board of Education member at Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools and a parent of an 8th grader at Kimpton Middle School, as well as three Stow-Munroe Falls High School graduates, all of whom are now in college. I stand before you today to advocate for fully funding public schools. The Governor's proposed budget slashed my district's funding by over 6.5% per year. Tuesday's revised budget revealed even deeper cuts which will have a devastating impact on our schools.

When the state underfunds education, local property owners are left to make up the difference through higher property taxes. Our buildings are old and crumbling, and we desperately need new schools. However, after our bond issue failed once, it stands little chance of ever passing if this funding reduction goes through. Homeowners—especially our seniors—are terrified of being taxed out of their homes, and many are reaching out to me, pleading for action. So today, I ask you to listen.

You've chosen to allocate \$1 billion to private school vouchers, \$600 million to a Browns stadium in Brookpark that Cuyahoga County residents don't even want, and allowed loopholes like no sales tax for private jet owners. The vouchers alone cause significant harm to public education. In my district we receive \$2,700 per pupil from the state. However if a student receives a voucher, they get \$8,408. Would we even need levies in our communities if we received that much? Why are we asking our taxpayers to support funding private school students at 3 times the amount of public school students? I have to ask, where are your priorities? This is not fiscal responsibility, nor is it putting everyday Ohioans first.

My children were fortunate to receive an exceptional education. My oldest is graduating Summa Cum Laude in Aerospace Engineering from Kent State next month. Current and future students in Stow-Munroe Falls and across Ohio deserve the same opportunities to succeed and thrive.

If our community is unable to support additional levies due to the growing burden of property taxes, many districts will face challenging decisions in the future. We need to be supporting our educators—just five years ago, they were hailed as frontline and hometown heroes for getting our students through the pandemic. Now, educators are being asked to take on more and more responsibilities beyond traditional teaching, like preparing for school shootings, handling emergency response situations, and addressing mental health concerns. Today, you are slashing funding from public schools, which leads to larger class sizes, fewer resources, and an increased workload for educators. Enough is enough—they are still the front line, our hometown heroes.

I ask that you consider my testimony and commit to fully funding the Fair School Funding Plan with updated base cost inputs. Please show our students, educators, and community members that you prioritize their future, recognize their value, and are dedicated to ensuring every child across Ohio has access to a quality education, regardless of their zip code.

Thank you.