

April 6, 2025

Chairman Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the Finance Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony. My name is Michael Hornberger. I am a life-long Ohioan who went through all levels of public education in this state. I am also the proud father of three who have also been privileged to get a public education in the state of Ohio. I am strongly opposed to the funding formula used to fund our public school in HB 96, and I strongly support the full implementation of the Fair School funding Plan.

I believe that education is the right of every person in this country and in this state. It is as fundamental as any right that we have - from the right to free speech to the right to keep and bear arms. It should be honored and upheld at any cost as it is an obligation that we owe our children as much as it is to keep them safe and provide the basic fundamentals for their care and wellbeing. I started my career after college working in the juvenile justice system. I saw first-hand the impacts on the lives of kids who are not given the basic fundamentals that a lot of us take for granted. Safety, security, a consistent place to live, food on the table, healthcare, education. These things provide stability and create an environment in which we can help each child recognize their true God-given potential. When you start eroding those things, it will create a negative impact on not just children, but on society as a whole.

It is the obligation of the electorate to take care of all their constituents and not the special interest groups. You were elected, yes, and you can work to enact your agenda, but you would do well to remember people elected you to do what is in their best interest. Playing games with the Fair School Funding Plan and creating confusion just shows that you know that your agenda would not be well received if people were to understand the long-term negative impacts that it creates for our public schools. The House budget plan has created so much confusion that people don't know what to believe, and the majority of the people who voted for you would not support this budget if they understood the damaging impact it has on our public schools. This is reckless and will have drastic long-term ramifications for this state and the people who live here.

I ask you to consider my testimony oppose this *harmful and dangerous* proposed method of school funding. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Michael Hornberger
Delaware, Ohio