

Interested Party Testimony of Substitute House Bill 96
House Finance Committee
April 7, 2025
Ms. Jody Everett (she/her)

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Jody Everett. I am the parent of two students currently attending Ohio public schools. I have been very happy with their education and the opportunities to thrive within the public-school setting. I am strongly opposed to Sub HB 96 as it is currently written. I am writing to urge you to support full and ongoing funding of the Fair School Funding Formula. Our children deserve a quality education no matter where they live, and this formula is the most equitable, thoughtful approach our state has seen in decades.

The new Sub HB96 is underfunding Ohio schools by \$2.75 billion over the next two years and providing just 10% of what the state should be contributing to fund our kids' education. It assumes that all students and districts have a level playing field. It will create disparities between what districts can afford and offer to their students. It will also create more stress financially on families. It appears that all students will receive a blanket stipend no matter their educational needs. Those students requiring special education services may not be provided with adequate services to thrive with their peers. This will impact students' ability to pass the 3rd grade standardized testing increasing those educational gaps. It is also concerning for students of low-income families and those in rural areas that may not be able to afford or access additional services to help make up where the public schools will be lacking. With this new bill, the public schools will be lacking. I am currently proud of our local schools and personally have no interest in sending my children to private schools.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this bill that is detrimental to our public-schools. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to all of Ohio's children and families.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jody Everett