

Proponent Testimony for House Bill [96]

Senate Education Committee

May 7, 2025

Julie Apley-Kanable, Constituent in Powell, Ohio

Chair Andrew O. Brenner, Vice Chair Louis W. Blessing, III, and members of the Education Committee of the Ohio Senate,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding public education funding in the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. I urge the committee to include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget.

My name is Julie Apley-Kanable; I am a constituent living in Powell, Ohio, proud product of public education, and a parent of 3 students at the Olentangy Local School District.

I want to ask that you consider that the cost of educating Ohio students who attend public schools—which includes over 90% of Ohio students. Where we sit today, public education in Ohio can be paid by the following three ways:

1. The state legislature implements the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan and keeps the promise that the state constitution made to Ohio children that, no matter where they live, they will receive a comprehensive education because the state has provided a thorough and efficient system of public schools.
2. Localities will bear even more inordinate funding burden for the public schools in their area, leaving it up to local taxpayers to make up for the legislature failing to uphold its constitutional burden.
3. That our children bear the cost through missed opportunities.

If the 3rd phase of the Fair School Funding Plan is not implemented, the outcome which is most likely to occur is that our children's educational opportunities will be reduced. Taxpayers already feel overburdened in the cost to educate children in their school district boundaries. This is why our state constitution did not leave this burden primarily on locality.

Public Schools have been wonderful for my children. My oldest now goes to the University of Mount Union and is both studying nursing and playing volleyball. She is doing extremely well thanks to the education that she received at Olentangy. My middle student is gifted and is taking 3 AP classes during his Junior year. He is looking forward to receiving college credit for these courses thanks to the outstanding teachers that have prepared him for these tests. He is also involved in set crew for the Theater department and enjoys many art classes that have helped him grow artistically. My youngest student has been on a 504 plan since the 4th grade due to a genetic

condition. She was non-verbal until she was three but with the help of extra time and extra instruction from our Olentangy teachers, she is thriving. She plans on being a teacher when she graduates. Because of our excellent public schools and amazing teachers, all three of my children have excelled and thrived in a fantastic school system.

I ask you to consider my testimony and choose to support the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools. Please include the 3rd phase of the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan in the state budget. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Julie Apley-Kanable