

Testimony for House Bill 96
Senate Education Committee
May 6, 2025
Alison Allen, FHSD Parent

Chair Andrew Brenner, Vice Chair Bill Blessing, Ranking Member Catherine Ingram, and members of the Education committee of the Ohio Senate:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Alison Allen.

I am a parent to a current second grader and an incoming Kindergartener in the Forest Hills School District. I am a resident of Anderson Township, a homeowner, advocate of public school education, an active volunteer at my child's school, a taxpayer, and an active Ohio voter.

I am providing testimony to advocate for our local public schools, and I am deeply concerned about how this budget will affect homeowners, students, teachers, and the larger community in the Forest Hills School District. I am in full support of FULLY funding Ohio's public schools in the budget bill and ask that you **ELIMINATE CAP ON SAVINGS, PROTECT THE GUARANTEE** for districts like FHSD, and **FULLY PHASE IN THE FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING PLAN.**

We moved to Anderson Township before my oldest daughter started Kindergarten. My husband and I sought out a school district that would provide our children a top-notch education, one that we did not have living in a rural area of Pennsylvania. Living here has been a blessing for our family. We are surrounded by a school community that cares about our children. Many of the teachers within the district went to FHSD themselves and have been dedicated to the children in this community for decades. As a former public school teacher in Title I schools outside of Ohio and a current education researcher and evaluator, I've seen the devastating impacts of not having a strong school and school district at the center of the community. The opportunities my child has at FHSD, and those that other children have in public schools around the state are VERY important for children to succeed and be productive Ohio citizens. Putting a cap on the cash balance, eliminating the guarantee, and abandoning the Fair School Funding Plan will cause our school district to ask for operating levies more often, and eventually price us out of the school district we love, where our children are thriving.

My family chose to live in this community because of the high quality schools. We know that a strong public school creates a strong community: they support our property values, our local businesses, and our future workforce.

Again, I ask you to consider families like mine when you consider the public education budget, and specifically that you fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony and your time.

Sincerely,

Alison Allen