

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify via writing. My name is Diane Homza-Dacek. I am a resident of Brooklyn, Ohio; a wife, a mother, and a life-long lover of my local libraries. I am writing to urge the committee to restore the Public Library Fund to AT LEAST a fixed 1.7% of state revenue (the current amount).

As a life-long library user, I know the importance of libraries to our communities. In high school, I had my library card number memorized because I used my local branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library so often. The libraries of today have expanded from just a way to borrow books and movies and music. I live in Brooklyn, which has a brand-new library building now. From the children's play area, to the dedicated study rooms, to the innovation center which allows the average citizen to use equipment such as 3D printers that we'd never be able to afford on our own, the library is a vital part of our community. And in order for that brand-new library to be able to keep serving us for years to come, it needs to have proper funding.

Ohio has some of the top library systems in the country, and it's because they've always received the necessary and proper funding for them to operate at the highest levels of service that Ohioans expect and deserve. Please keep them that way.

I ask you to consider my testimony and restore the Public Library Fund to AT LEAST a fixed 1.7% of state revenue. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.