

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Linsey Griffith. I am an elected member of Delaware Ohio's City Council, a small business owner, a Student Midwife, Doula, Mother, and Wife. I am writing to urge the committee to restore the Public Library Fund to AT LEAST a fixed 1.7% of state revenue.

Our libraries are where people come together to learn, where community is built, and where poor children, like I was, can access books they could never dream of affording, the internet they don't have at home, get help learning how to apply to college or build a new project, or fix their car, or file their taxes. Our libraries provide all of this and more- at pennies on the dollar of state investment. As a small business owner I regularly use our library's maker's studio to make supplies to market and support my small business- utilizing shared resources that are well beyond my business financially. Libraries are the foundation of a functional, collaborative society. The great industrialist Andrew Carnegie recognized that and helped to build and found our public library systems. Without which many of our most important political minds.

*"The doors of this Library are open now and all are welcome. The judgment of history is left to you, the people. I have no fears of that, for we have done our best. And so I say, come and learn from it."* — **Ronald**

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 on behalf of our libraries.

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