

HB 96 Fair School Funding and Library Funding Testimony

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

You don't know me, but my name is Megan Smith. I'm a resident of 44720 in Stark County. I'm a parent of a very bright 4th grader who LOVES school. Her favorite subjects are math and science. She THRIVES at school and is a high-performing student.

In school, she requires some additional accommodations that most of her peers don't. This requires extra meetings and extra effort on the part of her teachers and administration. Our school and the services she receives are SO IMPORTANT to her success. When I learned from my school board members that our school district is scheduled to lose \$600-700,000 in special education funding in this biennium budget, it was like a punch to the gut. This loss of funding will directly impact my child. We would be so disappointed to see any of her services or accommodations cut because of a lack of funding. Please implement the Fair School Funding Plan in this budget.

Additionally, we are very concerned about the revised public library funding in this budget. We would like to see it reverted to a percentage of the general revenue fund, rather than as a line-item as currently proposed.

Thank you for your time and attention to these matters.

Megan Smith
Resident of 44720