

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 96

Senate Education Committee

May 14, 2025

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

I am Guy Thellian from Cleveland Heights and I am here to testify in support of fully funding Ohio's public schools.

My children have graduated from college, OSU, and had attended public, Catholic and private schools. My son graduated from a private school, University School, and my daughter graduated from public school, Heights High. After her freshman year at Hathaway Brown, she asked to transfer to Heights High. My daughter tells us she feels she got a good education and is a better, more aware person because she went to public school. I am not saying everyone would have her experience but I am saying that the State of Ohio needs good public schools. Good public schools require appropriate funding, funding the full cost of schools as provided for in Gov. DeWine's proposed budget.

My daughter-in-law has taught special education in the South Euclid/Lyndhurst School District for several years and tells us how funding of special education for her students has given them the services they need to live and thrive, what each of you and every parent wants for their children. In my written testimony I include two stories of children for whom special education has been critical in their life's journey.

For a decade I was involved with Minds Matter, a non-profit which helps students from challenged backgrounds gain admission and succeed in college, remarkable young people who with some help and appropriately funded public schools have great possibilities for themselves, Ohio, and the world.

We need leaders today, leaders who see the needs of the young people of Ohio and choose to lead for the good of the next generation of Ohioans, even when there is a flow contrary to doing what is good and right and needs to be done.

I ask you to lead by fully funding public education in Ohio, showing the people of Ohio and the United States that the leaders of the Great State of Ohio choose to invest in their schools to ensure the young people of Ohio can continue to make Ohio great.

Thank you.

Guy Thellian

Addendum: written but not spoken testimony due to time limitations