

Written Testimony
Ohio House Bill 96
Senate Education Committee
May 12, 2025

Maggie Dine-Jergens
Resident, Indian Hill, OH

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony. My name is Maggie Dine, and I am a resident of Indian Hill. I have four children who graduated from Ohio public schools and two grandchildren currently in Ohio public schools. The quality of the education they all receive (and received) is exceptional, which is why they are among the 90% of students who choose to attend public schools. I am submitting testimony to urge the committee to fully fund Ohio's public schools in the budget bill.

Suburban school districts like my home district of Indian Hill and my grandchildren's district of Forest Hills already receive less funding per pupil than other Ohio Schools while achieving at the top of all "best of" school lists. According to the Ohio Department of Education CUPP report, the average funding per pupil in the state is \$7,443.12. The cost per pupil received in our district is only \$2,857.84. My home district does spend substantially more per student than the average; however, I know that for families like my grandchildren, the middle-class communities cannot afford to pay more for property tax levies to cover the shortfall from the state.

My asks for this committee are:

- Protect the guarantee
- Fully implement the Fair School Funding Plan, including the phase-in, and update the inputs
- Eliminate cap on savings

I ask you to consider my testimony and choose to support the 90% of Ohio students who attend public schools. There are too many communities that cannot afford to make up the difference.

Maggie Dine-Jergens