

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 Meredith Brinegar. I am the parent of a school-aged child in Bellbrook, Ohio. I am here to urge the committee to fully phase the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget, including updated data inputs. I also strongly disagree with the House's proposed carryover cap of 30% for school districts. This proposal shows a misunderstanding of how school property tax levies are legislated (no allowance for inflation) and collected.

I owe much of my personal and professional success to the 23 years of Ohio public education I received. I graduated as salutatorian from Perry High School, in Stark County in 1995. I then earned my BS in Psychology from The Ohio State University in 1999. I completed my PhD in Clinical Psychology from Miami University. I now practice as a clinical psychologist in Montgomery County and live in Greene County. I see the impact that public education can have for ALL students, including those with disabilities.

My daughter's experiences at Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools have been stellar. However, our district is increasingly reliant on property taxes (we only get 22% of our funding from the state). And now, with the proposed carry-over cap, we stand to lose \$9M, and will have to ask for property levies more and more often. It took us 4 tries to pass our last one. And because our administration has been fiscally responsible in making that money last, we are now being penalized.

I ask you to consider my testimony and fully phase the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget, including updated data inputs. I also ask that you reject any caps on school budget carry-overs. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Dr. Meredith Glick Brinegar
Bellbrook, OH