

Interested Party Testimony for Sub. House Bill 96
Senate Education Committee
5.14.25

Rachael Collyer-Rogers

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

My name is Rachael Collyer-Rogers, and I am a graduate of Cleveland Heights High School, the parent of a future public school student, and a parent organizer with the Ohio Organizing Collaborative, a role in which I organize other Northeast Ohio parents around supporting public education.

I am writing to you today to express my utter dismay at the version of the budget bill that was recently passed by the House, and to call on the Senate to pass the Fair School Funding Plan in your version of the budget. In 2020, Ohio lawmakers committed to fulfilling the promise of fully and fairly funding our state's public schools, but Speaker Huffman and his allies decided to renege on their promise to the 90% of Ohio students who go to public schools and shortchange our public schools by \$2.75 billion in their version of the budget bill. At the same time, they increased public funding for vouchers to wealthy families for discounts on private school tuition and handed out \$600 million to move the Cleveland Browns to Brook Park.

I deeply value the public education I received at Cleveland Heights High School. I was able to earn college credit through multiple AP courses, participate in extracurriculars like band, orchestra, and choir, and get a great education. As a parent, you want your child to have a better education than what you had, or at minimum, one that is just as good as what you had. Unfortunately, with the House breaking their promise to fully and fairly fund public schools, and with private school vouchers siphoning more and more funding that should be going towards public education, my child stands to attend public schools that have less resources with which to serve him than they did when I was a student there.

Our kids deserve class sizes that allow their teachers to provide individual attention; they deserve any additional supports - like special education programs, therapy services, and classroom aides - that they need to be able to learn and thrive at school; they deserve access to art, music, sports, and after school enrichment programs; and they deserve all of this regardless of how much money their parents make. Every child in our state deserves a world class education, and every parent should be able to count on them getting one through our state's public schools. This is what is at stake in this budget.

I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote to fund the Fair School Funding Plan so that ALL of Ohio's children can receive the education they deserve, regardless of race, zip code, income, or ability.

Thank you,

Rachael Collyer-Rogers