

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is David Alexander Campbell II. I am a former public school student working as a long-term substitute aide at Mills Lawn Elementary in Yellow Springs. I urge the committee to entirely phase the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget, including updated data inputs.

I was one of the fortunate individuals in my education. I went to Centerville City Schools and then graduated from the University of Dayton with a teacher education degree specializing in social studies. Still, I know not everyone is this lucky in their educational journey. [According to data collected by the OACAA \(Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies\), 17.7 percent of adolescents are in poverty, which places our state in the 12th-worst poverty rate in the country.](#) Instead of supplying more aid to education (primarily in our rural and inner city districts), our representatives seek to allocate funds (around six hundred million) to build a new Browns stadium and create a committee to raise wages for our representatives across this great state. [Similarly, it is not the less fortunate students who benefit from private or voucher-based schools, which, according to one study published by NBC News, finds that a staggering ninety percent of applicants are not low-income qualified, which defeats the initial purpose of these programs. Ohio also ranks 36th, out of 50, in terms of educational quality throughout our nation. We are also not among the eleven states offering universal Pre-K programs.](#)

You should be appalled at what some great senators and House members are trying to accomplish. If Ohio is already struggling this much in education, why do our leaders seek to gut it even more? Education is supposed to be the great equalizer in life, but with aid being cut both at the federal and state levels, our disadvantaged students will fall by the wayside and most likely end up in the school-to-prison pipeline. Let us reclaim our former glory as a state built on innovation and achievements in engineering. Let us reclaim our former glory as a nation where we shine as a beacon for other countries to look upon.

Please consider my testimony and entirely phase the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget, including updated data inputs. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

