

Senate Education Committee  
Testimony on House Bill 96 from James Cherian  
May 12, 2025

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

I write to you to express my support for fully implementing the Fair School Funding Plan. In its initial form, the plan gained bipartisan support because it benefits all. I am also opposed to the 30% cap on cash reserves. Wise budgeting relies on long term plans. The idea of a cap undercuts any meaningful long term budgeting and goes against the will of the people that voted for these funds to be used.

I am writing to express these thoughts because our family greatly benefits from well funded public education. It has contributed to my wife and I becoming who we are today and is setting up our children to benefit the world around them.

Our family is a licensed foster/adopt family. Without Mentor Public Schools and the blessing they are to our then foster/now adopted child, I'm not sure we would have continued our license. Public schools affect everyone. The dismantling of it will lead to so many unintended consequences that would put so many of us at risk, especially the at-risk children we care for.

Please do better: Fully implement the Fair School Funding Plan and remove the cap on cash reserves.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James Cherian