

**Senate Education Committee**  
**Testimony regarding Am. Sub. H. B. No. 96**  
**May 12, 2025**

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

Thank you for considering this testimony. My name is Kathleen Baer. I am a lifelong Ohio citizen and a staunch supporter of public education. The majority of my education (K-12 and M.Ed.) has been completed at Ohio public educational institutions, and I have dedicated my entire adult life to a career at an Ohio public university. And, as a mother, I care deeply about my children's access to a quality education. I love seeing them thrive in our local Tallmadge City School District, supported by wonderful teachers and administrators.

However, in learning more about the budget passed by the Ohio House, I am extremely concerned about the proposed changes to public school funding and how they might affect not only my children, but the 90% of Ohio children across the state who attend public schools.

Therefore, I am writing today to urge the committee to fully phase the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget, including updated data inputs.

According to an analysis by Policy Matters Ohio, the Fair School Funding Plan would provide an additional \$5,500,055 to Tallmadge City School District over the next two years. However, the House plan would cut this number to \$123,863 over the next two years.

And yet, the Ohio House has proposed additional public spending for private school vouchers instead, many of which go to families who can already afford private school tuition. This is simply unconscionable.

I ask you to consider my testimony and fully phase the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget, including updated data inputs. Ohio's public-school children deserve to have their education prioritized in this state budget.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Kathleen M. Baer