

Testimony for House Bill 96
Senate Education Committee
5.13.2025

Melanie Murphy

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Melanie Murphy. I am a parent at Gamble Montessori Elementary School in the Cincinnati Public Schools district. I am writing today in support of fully funding Ohio's public schools in the budget bill.

I have a kindergartener who receives special education services for autism. In the two years my child has attended Gamble Montessori, I have watched this kid grow from someone who barely spoke at preschool into an almost 1st-grader who can stand on stage and speak in front of an audience. I give a lot of credit for this progress to the wonderful teachers, aides, intervention specialists, and speech therapists who have helped along the way. None of this would have been possible without funding for our public schools.

Allowing our schools to go without fair and full funding will hurt my child and other families like mine. Many families who have students receiving special education services rely on public schools as places where our children can be part of inclusive learning environments and can access the supports they need to thrive.

My child's school district stands to receive over \$39 million less under the HB 96 budget proposal than under the Fair School Funding Plan. Our children are Ohio's future. We cannot take funding away from them. I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote for the Fair School Funding Plan.

Thank you.

