

May 12, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Fair School Funding Plan and updated data inputs. My name is Angela Dockery and I have been a resident of Ohio for 23 years. I live in the tenth largest district in Ohio that educates over 16,000 students. I urge the committee to fully phase the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget.

I would like to zoom in on one group included in all the Ohio children who deserve a fully funded public school system: Ohio public school children with Individual Education Plans. Their education, their Free Appropriate Public Education, relies on state budget funds. It is especially concerning that the Ohio budget recognizes the cost variance in educating students with disabilities from each determination category, but does not see the necessity of fully funding that education.

25 years ago, I sat in in a university classroom in another state and watched a documentary film about Ohio's disparate funding of education. I watched footage of Ohio public schools with lush football fields, students using high tech labs and shiny new computers contrasted with Ohio children walking outside in the snow to use an external bathroom building and others sitting in dank basement classrooms with water trickling under their chairs from leaks. Ohio children deserve more. All Ohio children deserve fully funded public educations.

I ask you to fully phase the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget, including updated data inputs. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.