



Senate Education Committee

House Bill 96

Molly Snodgrass, Concerned Parent in Big Walnut Local School District

May 14, 2025

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 Molly Snodgrass and I am a parent of two children in the Big Walnut Local School District.

I also wish to thank you for the many hours you've spent respectfully listening to and reading public testimony on House Bill 96 during its recent public hearings. As you are all well aware by now, the House-passed version of the biennial budget has several items related to public education and library funding that is of significant concern among Ohioans, and which I hope the Senate can improve upon.

I was encouraged to see your receptiveness on considering alternatives to the 30% carryover cap for school districts, such as by instead requiring districts to adopt a policy that sets an operating budget threshold and required actions if that threshold is exceeded. Such a compromise would allow local communities, through their elected Board members, to decide what they feel is an appropriate funding level for their school district, while also addressing concerns that districts' account balances are unchecked. Big Walnut's treasurer has introduced a draft policy related to this during its April 14th Board meeting, and I hope the House and Senate will agree that it is a more logical approach to addressing the issue than a universal, arbitrary cap. Please, continue to work toward a solution that does not cause more problems than it solves.

Likewise, I urge the Senate to find a way to keep the Fair School Funding Plan and its funding formula intact and balanced—by using current cost inputs and capacity data, as intended. The Fair School Funding Plan was a truly bipartisan initiative that was decades in the making, and it would be an absolute shame to abandon it now. If the phase-in must be extended or other measures taken to keep Ohio on the right track to fairly fund its schools, I urge you to work to make that happen. My husband, who graduated high school in 1997, remembers when Ohio's system of school funding was declared unconstitutional. He is now approaching 47 years old. Please, reinstate the Fair School Funding Plan—it is long overdue.

Lastly, please ensure Ohio's longstanding library funding policy and budget is unchanged. Ohio boasts the second-highest rate of library visits per person, the second-highest rate of library card ownership, and the highest average items checked out per person per year in the entire country. It is largely through the consistent and unwavering state funding for Ohio's libraries that these achievements have come to be. Please do not jeopardize Ohio's strong system of public libraries by changing its funding policy and reducing funding. To do so would be a disservice to all Ohioans.

Thank you again for the opportunity to have my voice heard. I look forward to these issues being addressed in the coming weeks.

Molly Snodgrass
Sunbury, Ohio