

Committees

Community Revitalization
Public Safety



Committees:

Children and Human Services
Small Business

Darnell T. Brewer

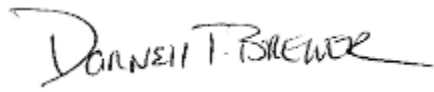
State Representative, Ohio House District 22

Good morning, Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee. I am here today to advocate for public school students and employees from across Ohio, but specifically in the 22nd House District, who I represent. I am calling on my Senate colleagues to fulfill Ohio's constitutional mandate and fully fund our public schools. Not doing so threatens the wellbeing of Ohio's education system.

Our public schools are already struggling. In my community, Garfield Heights City School District failed to pass a recent renewal levy, leaving them with a \$5.35 million shortfall. Without proper state support, the district will be forced to consider cost cutting measures such as staffing and programming cuts, harming our children's education. This is just one example, public schools across the state are being forced to make impossible decisions on where to put their limited funds.

I want to also highlight the fact that underfunding public schools increases the reliance on property owners to foot the bill. In a time where Ohio needs comprehensive property tax reform, we are forcing Ohioans to pay more in property taxes to support their schools. The House Budget passed on April 9th, does away with the bipartisan, constitutional fair school funding formula, failing the 90% of Ohio's children that attend public schools. The House budget also adds a cap to school district cash reserves, limiting public school districts from carrying over more than 30% of reserve funds from the previous fiscal year in their operating budget. This will force local districts to recklessly spend down cash reserves or lose the funding, which will result in public districts relying more heavily on local levies more often at a time when Ohio is the most levied state in the nation.

So today, I am urging the esteemed members of the Senate Education Committee and my Senate colleagues to invest in our future by investing in our youth.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darnell T. Brewer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Darnell" being more prominent than the last name "Brewer".

Representative Darnell T. Brewer
Ohio House District 22

