

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Julianne Hensel. I am a parent of two children, both of whom will attend Ohio's public schools. My husband and I both received a public education in this beautiful state for all of our K-12 education. I'm here to urge the committee to fully phase the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan -- including updated base cost inputs -- into Ohio's budget.

I strongly believe that public schools strengthen our communities. Last year, my daughter attended Kindergarten at Lincoln Elementary in Gahanna, Ohio. The elementary school was in our neighborhood, and every day we walked to school. Prior to our daughter starting school, we did not know many of our neighbors despite living in our home for six years. Over the course of that school year, my daughter Mae and I both made friends. By the end of the year, we were walking home with three different families. Our neighborhood became more than where our home was, it became our community. Without this strong public school in my neighborhood, my daughter and I would never have found this feeling of community or belonging.

Everyone in Ohio deserves to feel part of our community and know that they belong in this beautiful state. Our public schools give that. In closing, I ask that you please consider my testimony and commit to fully phasing the Fair School Funding Plan. Thank you.