

May 23, 2025

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I have been a special education teacher in Cleveland for the last ten years. I have served students in both charter and public schools, and I have probably learned just as much from my students as they have learned from me. They are the reason I get up and go to work every day. My students overcome adversity as they strive to gain the skills and knowledge that will put them on the path to a brighter future. They are among the 90% of children in Ohio who attend public schools.

One of my students works tirelessly, in and out of school, to understand the math concepts that underpin logic and problem solving. She has internalized her understanding so much that she now writes math problems and teaches other students to solve them. Without her special education interventions, she might be left in the back of the class falling further behind instead of being up front teaching others. Her determination will serve her well in life.

Every day, I wonder how much brighter my students' futures would be if our society decided to fund public education adequately. If we valued education as much as professional sports, gambling, and corporate profits. In Ohio, this question can be answered by the Fair School Funding Plan, which began as a bipartisan effort and is now so close to being fully implemented. [Sub.HB 96](#) abandons the Fair School Funding Plan and casts a shadow over my students' future. The Senate needs to do better.

Your committee is tasked with ensuring our public funds are spent wisely and responsibly. There are few things more important than ensuring all Ohio children are prepared to enter the workforce and become tomorrow's leaders. I am asking you to fully phase the bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan into Ohio's budget, including updated data inputs. The categorical funding that supports students like mine is critical. Additionally, schools should not be limited by a budget carryover cap. Make public education a priority, and show my students that you care about their future.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Anne Miano