

Testimony for House Bill 96  
Senate Finance Committee  
May 27, 2025  
Marie Krulewitch-Browne

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Marie Krulewitch-Browne, and I am a parent of two students in Cincinnati Public Schools. I am also an active community volunteer, nonprofit leader, and former small business owner. In each of these capacities, I have a reason to support public schools. I am submitting testimony to ask you to join me in supporting and fully funding public schools throughout the state.

My kids started their education at a private, parochial school. I thought that public school would be too big and too overwhelming for my students, and that it would not be able to offer my kids the personal attention and support they needed. We found the opposite to be true. Their private school was not able to provide an education that worked for them. They have a blended background that did not fit into a "cookie cutter mold."

We ended up moving to our local public school, and my kids are excelling. We feel more supported than we ever have by both administrators and teachers. My kids are benefiting from the diversity, the exposure to students who learn differently than them, and they are becoming curious and critical thinkers. I am immensely grateful for the opportunities they have been able to have at their public school, and I want their experience to be what all Ohio students have the opportunity to experience.

My ask of this committee is to fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan. As you know, 90% of Ohio students choose public schools for their students, and they should be supported at the highest level possible.

Thank you for your time.

Marie Krulewitch-Browne