

**Testimony for House Bill 96**  
**Senate Finance Committee**  
**May 27, 2025**  
**Marcia A. Futel**

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Marcia A. Futel. I am a resident in the Cincinnati City School district, a parent of 3 public school graduates, a grandmother of 2 current public-school students, and a 35-year education advocate in our community. I am in support of fully funding Ohio's public schools in this biennial budget bill per the Fair School Funding (FSF) Act passed in 2019.

For many years, as a parent, I watched the dismantling of valuable, legacy programs due to inadequate funding such as the International Baccalaureate program at my son's school. This sunseting of this program was a huge loss for students who wanted and deserved a world renowned diploma. Additionally, we lost our foreign language programs which equipped our students to fluently communicate in countries throughout the world. What an asset these skills could have been to our businesses and service organizations, and to our country as a whole.

After many years of fighting for fair school funding, we celebrated the State Assembly's passage of a funding formula that addressed the true cost of educating Ohio students. At the start of implementing the FSF formula, our district began to receive the proper level of funding to address the real cost of educating students with a world class education. More and more families enrolled their students in our school district and appreciate the programmatic options available.

Failing to fully fund our public schools sends a strong, discouraging message to our families and to our kids: they are not worth spending Ohio's money on their future. Please prove that this perception is wrong and that you truly care about the future of Ohio's citizens. I ask that you consider my testimony and vote to fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan as it was originally intended.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I'm happy to answer any questions and share insight as a mother, grandmother, and education advocate in the Cincinnati Public Schools' community.