

Testimony for House Bill 96
Senate Finance Committee
May 27, 2025

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 Amy Cissell. I am a resident in the Forest Hills School District and parent to three recent Forest Hills graduates. I am also an active volunteer in the community and past volunteer within the school district.

I am in support of fully funding Ohio's public schools in the budget bill as I am concerned about the burden already placed on our community to support our public school district. I also request specifically that you eliminate the cap on saving, that you Protect the Guarantee for districts like FHSD, and that you fully phase in the Fair School Funding Plan.

Two of my children are Summa Cum Laude graduates from Ohio colleges and my third child is a thriving student at Ohio State University. I wholeheartedly believe that the fabulous public-school education that my children received from the Forest Hills School District prepared them well for college. Our teachers are top notch and the programs we have available for the students gave my children a strong knowledge and experience base to take with them to college. For these reasons and more, I am a resolute supporter of the public school system.

I was an active participant in PTO for about fifteen years while my children were in school, and we worked hard to fundraise to provide extras that the district was not able to purchase. It would be exceedingly difficult for the PTO to keep up the level of fundraising to help if state funding dropped even lower. This will negatively impact the teachers and the students, which affects the morale of the community.

Again, I urge you to consider the families of the Forest Hills School District when you consider the public education budget and I specifically ask that you fully fund the Fair School Funding Plan. Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit my testimony and thank you for your time.