

Testimony for House Bill 96
Senate Finance Committee
May 28, 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 considering my written testimony.

My name is Allison Goodman and I am a Cincinnati resident, a parent of three school-aged children, all of whom are attending schools in the Cincinnati Public Schools District. I am also a preschool teacher, for nearly 20 years, with a master's degree in Education Administration, and I am a product of public education. I care deeply about my community, my city, and my state, both now and in the future. I believe strong public schools are critical to Ohio's success.

I call upon the Ohio Senate to reinstate the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) in the Ohio Biennium Budget for FY2026 and FY2027. It is the Ohio legislature's constitutional responsibility to fairly fund a high-quality system of public schools, available to all students.

House Budget Bill 96 drains public funds from public schools by scrapping the fair school funding formula before it's full implementation, by limiting school's ability to carry over funds, and by funding universal vouchers. This is going to leave homeowners throughout the state footing the remaining costs for their local schools through their property taxes. As you know, this is both unconstitutional (ruled as such in 1997) and totally unacceptable.

Abandoning the FSFP, a bipartisan approach to school funding based on the actual cost of adequately educating kids, that takes into consideration communities' ability to cover the costs through local taxation, means the state will likely underfund public schools by millions if not billions of dollars. **Public dollars should be used to fund public schools.**

My three kids are a part of the nearly 90% of Ohio's K-12 students who attend public schools and while I'd love to submit my testimony merely on their behalf, I instead write today to express my support for all of Ohio's public-school students. Supporting public schools should not be a partisan issue. All students in the state of Ohio deserve schools that are properly and constitutionally funded.

I urge you today to fully implement and fund the FSFP using up-to-date estimates that adjust the formula's base cost inputs to account for rising costs of goods and services.

It is past time for the legislature to do the right thing: Please consider the millions of Ohio students, like mine, who attend and depend upon their public schools.

Thank you for your time; I trust you are taking my testimony seriously.

Sincerely,

Allison L. Goodman
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