

**Date:** 05/23/225

Good [morning/afternoon], Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Kawther Musa and I live in Columbus. I'm here today as a concerned, resident, and community advocate to speak against the proposed budget cuts to Columbus City Schools.

These cuts—over **\$45 million in funding**—would have devastating consequences for our schools. We're talking about potential teacher layoffs, fewer support staff, and cuts to programs like art, music, and mental health services. These are not extras. These are essential parts of our children's education and well-being.

I also want to point out that Columbus City Schools just passed a levy last fall—voters like me approved it because we believe in investing in our kids. But if the state pulls funding now, it will cancel out the gains we voted for. That's not right. It sends a message that our community's voice doesn't matter.

We need a funding system that's fair and reflects the true cost of educating our children in 2025—not one that penalizes growing districts or diverse communities like ours.

Please stand with our students, our teachers, and our future. Don't let Columbus kids pay the price for a flawed formula.

Thank you.

Kawther Musa