

Interested Party Testimony for House Bill 96

Senate Finance Committee

May 30, 2025

Abigail Drennen, Parent

Chair Jerry Cirino and members of the Finance committee of the Ohio Senate:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Abigail Drennen. I am a parent of two children who attend Case Elementary School within Akron Public Schools. I am also on our school PTA's board, as the communications chair, as well as an active member in our Akron Community (Ward 1).

I am here to advocate in support of the Fair School Funding Plan and **fully** funding Ohio's Public Schools in the budget bill. I am writing to you (again) today to **urge** you to prioritize public school funding in the upcoming budget. It is **crucial** that the Fair School Funding Plan is **fully phased in** and that the cost calculations used in the formula are updated to reflect the **current** economic climate. Outdated funding formulas put our children's education at risk.

My children are part of the 90% of Ohio kids who attend public schools, and while I want the world for my children, all children in the state of Ohio deserve schools that are properly and constitutionally funded. This isn't a radical concept. In fact, there is **sweeping bi-partisan support for funding our schools fairly**, and to current numbers and data. While Ohio's three-part, bi-partisan Fair School Funding Plan took years to pass, it is way over-due for implementation. This plan includes incredible amounts of research, edits and debate with legislators from both sides of the aisle helping to make it a reality. There is NO excuse for abandoning this plan now, as it is in its final phase of implementation. If there is room in the budget to continue to expand the illegal voucher system or pay to build a new Browns Stadium, I urge you to consider prioritizing funding for our PUBLIC schools vs these private projects and expand on the constitutional right to a fair public-school education.

Our schools have been doing incredible work with limited budgets, it is time to fully and fairly fund them so all Ohio's kids can reach their full potential.

There is so much more I'd like to say on this subject, but trying to keep this testimony brief, so in summary, I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote yes to funding the Fair School Funding Plan.

Thank you!

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