

Committee Members,

I am sure you are aware that in 1997, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled in *DeRolph v. State of Ohio* that Ohio's method for funding schools via the school foundation program was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court also declared that Ohio's school funding system was over-reliant on local property taxes. As such, our State's funding model was found to be inherently discriminatory to children based on where they live as obvious disparities exist between affluent and impoverished communities. Since the *DeRolph* decision, the necessary school funding changes have yet to be effectuated. Furthermore, I also suspect you are aware that no Ohio school district is currently on the state's funding formula and even when the formula was in place approximately 80% of Ohio's school districts were either "capped" in their funding, or on the "guarantee", which is evidence that Ohio's funding model remains ineffective.

The Aurora City School District was actually one of the few school districts in which the formula applied, but there have also been years where we were capped. However, I wanted to share my concern for the funds we do lose under the current formula when young people leave our district. Fortunately, we have relatively few students leave our district to attend a charter school (approximately 40 out of 3000), but those who do leave also exit with a little over \$6000 each. In Aurora, we only receive approximately \$1500 in state funding per pupil, so as you can see, each young person from our district who attends a charter school is actually taking over \$4000 of *locally* raised funds from the district. These local dollars should not be leaving the community to fund schools in another district. The Fair School Funding model still funds charter/voucher programs, but does so by directly funding the charter schools from the state rather than taking funds from local districts in a way that they have with Aurora. In short, the Fair School Funding Plan provides funding for students where they are being educated.

The Fair School Funding Plan, in addition to establishing a base cost of education, provides for critical categorical funding that addresses poverty, student wellness, technology, special education, and transportation, thereby strengthening the ability of Ohio schools to adequately meet the needs of all young people. It delivers the adequate and equitable level of funding necessary to provide appropriate and meaningful opportunities for all public school students across the state.

I believe that Ohio's economic future hinges on the ability of the State of Ohio to educate our future workforce to meet tomorrow's labor demand. Ohio's public education system is in dire need of leaders like you to work in a bipartisan fashion to provide solutions to the problem of unfair school funding for Ohio's children. As such, I respectfully request your support for the Fair School Funding Plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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