

Testimony on HB110 (Appropriations for FY 2022-23 Budget)
Submitted to the Ohio Senate Primary & Secondary Education Committee,
May 6, 2021
Submitted by Tom Schmida
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Chairman Brenner, Vice chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee, I am writing to you to offer this testimony and express my views on the Fair School Funding Plan in HB110.

My name is Tom Schmida, I am a retired teacher and spent my entire career in the Cleveland Heights- University Heights City School District. I served as president of the Cleveland heights Teachers Union for twenty-two years and was a member of the Ohio Federation of teachers Executive Committee for that same period of time.

For my entire career I worked under a state school funding system that was so poorly structured that massive inequities among school districts were common and had a devastating impact on so many children for so many years because of the failure of the General Assembly to address this problem. Even after the multiple DeRolph decisions, very little changed in terms of the results of Ohio's funding mechanism.

Though I am no longer teaching, I now have reason for hope for my grandchildren and the children of our state. The Fair School Funding Plan in HB 110 finally, finally offers an opportunity to correct decades of flawed allocation of resources and restore the rule of law in Ohio when it comes to school funding. Simply put, The current model of school funding in Ohio is broken. It has forced cuts to programs our students need, forced multiple tax levies that are crippling and dividing communities, and placed blame on school leaders and teachers for the financial negligence caused by the state.

I urge you to support the Fair School Funding Plan. Please uphold your constitutional responsibility, and your oaths of office. It is long past time for this change, and our children deserve no less.

Thank you.