



## **Testimony on the Fair School Funding Plan and House Bill 110 Senate**

Primary and Secondary Education Committee

Thursday May 6, 2021

Molly Shack, Ohio Organizing Collaborative

Good afternoon, Chair Brenner, ranking member Fedor and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Fair School Funding Plan, now included in the biennium budget bill.

My name is Molly Shack and I serve as the Co-Executive Director of the Ohio Organizing Collaborative, a network of faith, student, and community leaders around Ohio united for racial and economic justice. OOC has registered over 350,000 voters in Ohio, has had millions of conversations with Ohioans about our community issues, and developed the leadership of thousands of grassroots leaders.

I am here today representing All in for Ohio Kids Coalition, a broad group of concerned parents, teachers, students, labor leaders and policy experts who are working together to ensure that we fully and fairly fund our schools. I am also a proud Columbus City School graduate. I know first hand the power of phenomenal public school education, and I know the pain of losing a favorite teacher after a local levy failed.

On Wednesday we woke up to the news once again many desperately needed local school levies failed to pass across Ohio in places like Pickerington, Winton Woods and Parma. Whether we're from cities or the country, suburbs or small towns all of us want our kids to go to great schools and follow their dreams. Right now our unconstitutional school funding system is putting too much of the burden on local communities while the state has failed to hold up their end of the bargain to provide a quality public education to every child.

For too long Ohio school districts have been pit against each other at the expense of students, families and communities. Our problems may look different but our solution is the same-- we need to fully and fairly fund our schools. Our kids need broadband access, a social worker and nurse in every building, arts and electives that nurture their creativity, sports, vocational programs, smaller class sizes and reasonable school bus wait times.

We believe where you live or what you look like shouldn't determine your opportunities to succeed. We all want the very best for our students to thrive, like quality learning resources, world-class infrastructure, and enough well-paid teachers and staff who can take care of all our kids' needs. Ohio's future depends on all our kids getting a great education - no matter their race, zip code, or family income.

We have the resources for all of our students to thrive. Where there is will, there is a way. The Fair School Funding Plan that was thoughtfully designed last session in HB305 has provided a way for all of our kids to have a more fair, equitable system. It is time for the legislature to find the will to fix this generational crisis of unconstitutionally funded schools.

Thank you for your time.