

Testimony on HB96 (Appropriations for FY 2025-26 Budget)

Submitted to the Ohio House Education Committee

[DATE]

by [YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS]

Proponent Testimony to Pass the Fair School Funding year 5 and 6 - House Education Committee

Chair Fowler, Vice Chair Odiodo, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the Ohio House Education Committee. My name is (YOUR NAME). I am (A LITTLE BACKGROUND ON WHY YOU CARE). I am interested in doing what I can to ensure that young people have the best opportunity to have high quality education in their public schools. I feel the best way to accomplish this is to pass the Fair School Funding Formula using up to date cost data.

Started as a bipartisan effort between former legislatures Bob Cupp and John Patterson, the Fair School Funding Plan continues to be rigorously adapted around student needs while respecting local control. The first two phases have already been adopted through two different budget cycles. To be fully implemented the last phase needs to be included in this biennial budget. I believe that this plan is the best way to ensure that the vast majority of children in the state of Ohio get the education that they deserve.

If implemented and fully funded it would help solve one of the greatest errors of the last several decades where education funding has been the stepchild of monied interests in diverting funds from our public schools, even though 90% of children in the state of Ohio attend public schools. In fact, at least 95% of students in half of Ohio counties attend public schools.

Lastly, **adopt the Fair School Funding formula**, funding the final two years of the plan, using the most current data available that includes inflation. More and more people have short attention spans these days – so much that it is difficult to stick to something for long. The work completed by the two previous Ohio legislative sessions is a long-term investment in our future. Let's not let that work go to waste by giving up on our children's education.

Thank you for your consideration.