

I am writing to urge you to retain the Fair School Funding Plan as the basis of the educational funding components of HB110.

I know that you care about our state's children. Here are a few truths that I'm sure that you, as a knowledgeable leader, already understand:

- The equitable distribution of resources is necessary for building a thriving, resilient, and stable economy.
- Investments in education is one of the most lucrative long-term capital multipliers of all our public services and that when schools get the resources they need to thrive, the positive impacts ripple outward, including (but not limited to):
 - Reduced crime rates
 - Higher wages
 - Reduced poverty and need for public assistance
 - Higher property values
 - Increased tax revenues
 - Improved public services
 - Increased civic engagement and community involvement
- When schools are struggling, what they need is increased resources, not punitive measures.

So I know that as you prepare to fulfill the state's obligation to make our public education funding model align with our state's constitution, you will see that the Fair School Funding Plan is what we need to ensure that all of our state's children get the dynamic, enriching, opportunity-filled education they all deserve.

As you and your colleagues work to shape our state's next budget, please keep in mind that:

- The state constitution only mandates only one financial obligation for the state: education.
- The Fair School Funding Plan was researched by practitioners over the last 3.5 years and was overwhelmingly approved by the Ohio House.
- Funding public education in Ohio has been stagnant since the 2008 recession.
- The district deduction method of funding EdChoice vouchers pits local communities against each other and has led to a major lawsuit against the state. Further, its impacts clearly show that it is hitting the most vulnerable students the hardest: Of Ohio's 611 districts, EdChoice impacts only 140. Of these, 22 districts pay out 90% of the vouchers, and of those, ALL are majority poverty, and 19 out of 22 are majority students of color. The discriminatory results of this

program in its current form are clear, and maintaining it is, thus, very risky for the state.

- The Fair School Funding Plan will help schools across the state, especially communities with large numbers of children living in poverty.
- The current model of school funding in Ohio has forced cuts to programs that our students need, multiple tax levies that are dividing communities and driving out residents, and placed blame on school leaders and teachers for our state's failure to meet its constitutional obligation and fund our public education system fairly.

Once again, *please*, on behalf of our state's children, do what you know is right and retain the Fair School Funding Plan as the basis of the educational funding components of HB110.

Sincerely,

Josephine Moore

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