

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 3/10/15

NAME: Hannah Sours

ORGANIZATION: ~~Ohio~~ Brookside High School
(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: Student

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ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF _____ ORGANIZATION X

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON

LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): 64

SPECIFIC ISSUE: _____

SUBJECT MATTER: _____

DO YOU FAVOR _____ OR OPPOSE X THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT:

I oppose the cuts in education funding. Education and curriculums are vital.

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?

YES X NO _____

(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? 2-3 minutes

House Bill 64 Testimony
Finance and Appropriations - Primary and Secondary Education Committee
March 16, 2016

Hannah Sours
Student at Brookside High School
Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City's School District

Chairman Cupp, Ranking Member Phillips, and members of the committee. My name is Hannah Sours, and I am a student at Brookside High School of the Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City's School District. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 64, the Main Operating Budget for FY 2016 and FY 2017.

The Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City's School District is a district that tries its best to help the students and local communities. We offer clubs, groups, sports, many elective classes, including choir and band, and classes through Lorain County Community College (LCCC). The school district offers as much as possible to help all students find their place. It also offers its students many choices to help keep them doing well in school and on the right path of life.

By offering clubs and sports the students realize that they have many different options of finding a place that they feel most comfortable in. We have clubs ranging from National Honor's Society to Robotics Club. There are also sports from soccer to bowling to baseball. The sports teach kids the competitive drive needed on a daily basis. Sports also teach you teamwork and what it is like to have a group of people supporting you, knowing that they will always be behind your decisions. Sports and extracurriculars may be cut due to the cuts in state funding. If these clubs were taken away students would not have something to look forward to during the school day or something that they just enjoy in life.

The school district also offers multiple elective classes and classes through LCCC. The elective classes bring more opportunity for career/interest exploration, like choir, band, and yearbook. Students that are musically talented have a place to showcase their talents and have fun with friends while doing what they love. The elective classes can also bring more of a challenge to a student's day like anatomy and physiology, spanish and french, and forensics classes. The electives also allow the students to choose a class on their own that is not a required class. Taking classes through both the schools and LCCC students are offered multiple opportunities. For example, students can graduate with an associates degree putting them one step closer to their goal in life. It also allows students to take a step into the college life and see what it is like.

With the ideas stated in House Bill 64 our school district would be losing over \$400,000 in funding from the state. The school district utilizes all of the money given to it to the best of its ability. The money does not go to waste. Once the state takes away all of that money the kids will no longer be able to experience doing the things they love and keep them going on the right path because the school district will be forced to cut the programs. This is because we will be forced to look for other options for funding levies. It is difficult to pass levies due to the fact that people in the community cannot afford to pay the raise in taxes being offered. The money that is offered through state funding is much needed for our school district.

House Bill 64 provides key changes in Ohio's education funding. The funding from the state is a key player in providing a strong educational base for students' futures. Cuts in educational funding will put that in jeopardy. The changes in House Bill 64 will terminate that from being a factor to help students. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 64 and for all of the work you put towards Ohio's students. The school district looks forward to working with you on finding a way to help make the bill more beneficial to all.