



**Interested Party Testimony- House HHS Subcommittee  
HB 33- State Operating Budget  
March 21, 2023**

Chair Carruthers and Ranking Member Liston - Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 33, the State Operating Budget, in support of MY Project USA's funding request which would appropriate \$200,000 in each fiscal year within the Department of Job and Family Service's TANF Block Grant for MY Project USA to provide mentoring, recreation, leadership, and literacy programming for at-risk youth.

My name is Mukumbira Mukumbira, and I am an 11th grade student at Briggs High School. When Sister Zerqa asked me to speak today, I knew it was very important to be here. I wanted to be here to be able to speak up against the violence that happens in my community, and how MY Project USA has made a direct impact on my life. It is critical that I live to see another day, and MY Project USA makes that possible for me and so many other kids in my community because of the support they give and how it dwells as a safe haven for many of us.

MY Project USA has changed my life for the better, and I am forever grateful. I've been a part of MY Project USA programming for 4 years. During my time with the organization, I've participated in the soccer program and helped with the food pantry. MY Project USA is helping me to succeed in school, become a positive leader, and creating a job opportunity for me to help assist in the food pantry and as an assistant soccer coach. I want to be able to give back and see the younger kids happy and getting better at soccer. Our younger players look up to us, and if we are doing the right things, they will, too. Thank you for allowing me to be here and to share my story. MY Project USA saved my life.

**I respectfully ask you to support our amendment.**

**I can take any questions you may have at this time.**

**Thank you.**

Mukumbira Mukumbira  
MY Project USA Student and Assistant Soccer Coach