

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: March 23, 2023

Name: Mylee Hall

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): Chesapeake High School

Position/Title: Student

Address: 10181 County Road 1

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 33

Specific Issue: Fair School Funding

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 2-3 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Fair school funding as it relates to students from southern Ohio and Appalachia.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Testimony Before the House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education

Mylee Hall, Student

Chesapeake High School

March 23, 2023

Chairwoman Richardson, Ranking Member Isaacsohn, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education, I appreciate the opportunity to speak before your committee.

My name is Mylee Hall, and I am a sophomore at Chesapeake High School in southern Ohio. As students in rural Appalachia, we are not afforded the same opportunities as our counterparts in urban areas. Coming from our rural area, in the heart of Appalachia, we fall behind in many areas compared to more urban schools. However, education should be prioritized no matter where you live. Without seeing first-hand the electives and classes some urban schools have to offer, most of our students are led to believe that we are on a level playing field with all Ohio high school students. However, after having a conversation with my cousin who attends Pickerington Central High School, I realized that our school lacks many educational opportunities. For example, my cousin and I both have aspirations to go into the medical field. At her school, she was able to take classes that allowed her to shadow in a hospital. To give you a better perspective, the class description states, "Students will explore how to detect and fight infection; screen and evaluate the code in human DNA; evaluate cancer treatment options; and prevail when the organs of the body begin to fail." Not only are their students a step ahead in the medical sciences area, but they have also been able to take elective courses such as earth and space science, computer science, engineering and construction, and business and finance foundations. These are just some of the many courses available to their students. Students who have the option to take these types of courses are more prepared to enter college or the workforce. They also have an abundance of fine arts classes available for them to take. We are fortunate enough to have gotten the opportunity to take part in an Ohio State Research Collaborative Group in which we have been working to implement change in our school. For our research, we sent out a survey to our student body and collected both qualitative and quantitative data. Throughout our qualitative research we found many students identified a problem in our school being the lack of classes offered. This data further proved that our school's limited class opportunities are affecting our students in a negative way. Due to staffing and financial constraints, we are only able to take general requirement courses that meet state guidelines for graduation. This puts us at a distinct disadvantage with other Ohio high school students. We have the same goals and ambitions as students throughout the state of Ohio, but we are held back because we do not receive the same opportunities, we just want to be brought up to a level playing field and be given a fair chance to succeed.