



**Ohio Senate Education Committee  
Interested Party Testimony  
HB 33 – FY24-25 State Operating Budget**

**Emani Jackson  
Alumna, Community Connection Program  
Girl Scouts of North East Ohio  
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Members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the chance to share my experience with Girl Scouts of North East Ohio.

My name is Emani Jackson. I am 20 years old, and I live in the Cleveland area. I am in school part time at Tri-C and I am working part-time.

I joined Girl Scouts as part of the Community Connection Program at the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority when I was 6 years old as a Brownie Girl Scout. I went all the way through to Ambassador Girl Scouts in high school.

To me, Girl Scouts means support of other young ladies, a group to help young girls strive to be their best selves and to become the best leaders in the world.

My favorite thing from Girl Scouts was team building and bonding because working in teams gave me great potential to become a team player and learn how to listen or take charge. I also loved the community service we did by keeping our beaches, streets, and communities clean.

We need more girls to be united and willing to put their egos and attitudes aside to become their best selves and to teach them that there is more to life than a music video or the latest outfits. And we definitely need more educated activities, like ones that can teach and last in their young minds to help them in their futures.

I wish I could go back in time, where I was a little Brownie again and start it all over. But I can't because I have grown up now, and I have gone through so many great experiences, so much enthusiasm and creativity for my life.

I've learned to share my great experiences, to fight the obstacles that I've learned to fly through, to share the teamwork I've learned to build with, how to love myself just the way I am – sharing that with my nieces is the best thing I've ever gotten out of my childhood life. I hope other people's nieces will be able to do Girl Scouts and these program to share that with you one day.

Being part of Girl Scouts has shown me a true undeniable sisterhood, that lets me know that wherever I am and whatever I need, I know my sisters will be right there behind me just as I will for them. To all my sisters I thank you for this lifetime bond of sisterhood I have grown and achieved in my life.

Senators, I hope you will keep the funding in the budget bill for this program because it is helping change girls' lives.

Thank you.