

May 24, 2023

Senate Finance Committee

Ohio Statehouse
1 Capital Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, Senator Brenner, and other distinguished members of the Senate:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 33 requesting the Senate Finance Committee support \$3 million in funding in the FY 24 -25 Ohio operating budget to expand workforce development, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship programming to Ohio students.


My name is Noah Barnhart, I'm a 17-year-old from Canton and would like to share how Junior Achievement has impacted my life.

From a young age I possessed an entrepreneurial spirit, constantly envisioning myself as a businessperson navigating the dynamic world of commerce. However, it was through Junior Achievement that I truly discovered the endless possibilities and gained the practical knowledge required to turn my dreams into reality. The JA Company Program not only provided me with the necessary guidance but also served as a nurturing platform for me to explore and refine my business acumen.

Junior Achievement taught me different ways to run a business, offering invaluable insights into the strategic aspects of entrepreneurship. Through engaging workshops and mentorship, I gained a comprehensive understanding of business models, financial planning, and the art of effective decision making. All of these will give me a solid foundation for my entrepreneurial journey.

Furthermore, Junior Achievement empowered me with essential sales skills, a vital component of any business venture. I learned the art of selling, discovering the importance of building genuine relationships with customers, and offering tailored solutions to meet their needs. The program provided me with real world experiences, allowing me to practice and refine my communication skills, persuasion techniques, and negotiation strategies.

However, Junior Achievement has allowed me to grow beyond the realms of business and commerce. It has been a catalyst for my personal growth, enabling me to conquer one of my biggest challenges - public speaking anxiety. As someone who would have trembled at the thought of standing here today, JA provided me with a supportive environment to overcome my fears. Through various presentations, workshops, and networking events, I have gradually developed the confidence to speak passionately and eloquently about what I love, which is business.



As I look back on my journey, I am filled with gratitude for the life changing experiences I was provided. Through JA I have gained valuable knowledge, practical skills, and personal growth. It has transformed my dreams into achievable goals, instilled confidence in my abilities, and opened doors to endless possibilities. Junior Achievement has not only shaped my entrepreneurial journey but has also fostered lifelong connections and a passion for making a difference in this world and for that I say thank you.

Sincerely,

Noah Barnhart

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