

May 1, 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 Kelsey Hill and I am currently a first year student at Kent State University studying managerial marketing with a minor in management.

During my senior year of high school, I participated in Junior Achievement (JA)'s JA Company Program. This program allows students to learn and practice entrepreneurship by starting a real, profitable business. We went through every process that a person would go through to create a business, and we weren't even 18 years old yet. This in itself is profound to me, because the experience is a once in a lifetime one. Most people don't have the resources to be able to bring their ideas to life, and Junior Achievement gives that platform to students with this program.

I can't even begin to put into words what this program has done for me, but it truly is something that has altered the course of my life. As a 17-year-old at the time, I had no idea what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. I knew I had a passion for business, but I wasn't entirely sure what aspect of business was right for me. Once my team and I had an idea and we started bringing it to life, I was assigned the role of Chief Marketing Officer. Through this, I developed a true passion for marketing. It allowed me to grow as a student by giving me the experience I needed to know what I wanted to do with my life in the future. It also allowed me to be creative, in a way that was brand new to me. As I watched my company Brain Wave and the rest of my team members grow throughout the year, I knew that this was something that was meant for me. Studying marketing now in college, I credit Junior Achievement and this program for giving me a way to know what I want to do, which a lot of college students can't always say.

Although I only participated in the JA Company Program, I also interned with JA of North Central Ohio. I have witnessed firsthand the impact they have on students of all ages, and that truly is special. All the programs that are offered for students have so much significance in these young people's lives. I also have watched the employees of JA of North Central Ohio work tirelessly to ensure the success of their programs, and the dedication that is put forth truly has affected me. To have an organization like this be such a huge part of my life has changed me as a person.

I am now one of three co-founders of an LLC company at the age of 19, and I thank Junior Achievement for making so many of my dreams a reality. The opportunities and memories that I have had because of them are remarkable, and I believe that any student who is impacted by Junior Achievement is a student who will continue to be successful throughout their life.



Sincerely,

Kelsey Hill

Kelsey Hill

CMO, Brain Wave

Email: khill69@kent.edu

Home Address: 3241 Trillium Ave NW, North Canton, Ohio 44708