



**Ohio Senate Health Committee
Interested Party Testimony
HB 33- State Operating Budget**

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Communities In Schools of Ohio**

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Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Communities In Schools of Ohio's funding request in the operating budget.

My name is Caylan Stevens, and I am a Senior Site Coordinator with Communities In Schools of Ohio at Norton Middle School in South-Western City Schools. This is my fifth year serving as a School Site Coordinator at Norton Middle School. I am here to share with you some of the real-life impacts of the state funding you have allocated to Communities In Schools of Ohio in the last two state operating budgets.

To share with you a little bit about the role of a Student Site Coordinator, I wanted to describe what a typical day looks like. In my role at Norton, I start every morning by checking the attendance report to make sure my students are in school. I create a list of students I need to call down to my office to discuss their grades, behavior, attendance, or to follow up on a previous conversation. My office is where additional school supplies and snacks are kept, so I constantly have students in and out looking for a granola bar or a new bookbag.

I meet with teachers throughout the day to discuss students' behaviors in class and their grades. Often, I meet with students to mediate conflicts, to hopefully prevent a small situation from escalating into a larger conflict. On some days I facilitate a group such as our anxiety group, or I will check on a group that is being facilitated by an outside source such as our Boys group. During their free periods, students will often come down to my office to do their schoolwork with my assistance for as many periods as possible. This may sound very structured but supporting middle school aged students keeps you on your toes, so I always have to leave room in my schedule for the unexpected!

I also wanted to share with you one story about a student I have been working with this year, which I think helps to show the type of impact CIS can have.

I am currently working with a student who started off the school year with an incredibly rough beginning. She was new to our district after the loss of her guardian -- her father. By September, she was facing expulsion but fortunately was able to return to school in abeyance. Soon after, she was added to my caseload and we immediately started working together daily with check ins, homework help -- lots of math work -- and anger management support. I also put her in a grief counseling group. With frequent contact with the family, I have formed a great relationship with her new guardian. She has jumped up 2 letter grades for IReady in both Math and Language arts. Her GPA since returning has been over a 3.3 which is the highest it's ever been in her life. I am so proud of her! I definitely think she has had a bigger impact on me than I've had on her.

The state funding you have provided to Communities In Schools in the last two cycles is making an incredible impact. Please support the amendment to add the funding back into the Senate bill.

I would now like to invite one of my students to join me – this is Miss Aleigha Taggart, an 8th grader I am proud to work with at my school.

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