

# Kofi Kwakye

Sister Sister Childcare: First Steps LLC

February 27, 2025

Testimony on House Bill 96

Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on HB 96. My name is Kofi Kwakye, I am with Sister Sister Childcare: First Steps LLC and I represent the CEO Project. I am here to ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance and removing work requirements for Medicaid.

I am a hard worker and taxpayer. I live in Westerville. Raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance would allow me and many other parents to afford childcare while earning a livable wage and providing for our families. In my area, childcare costs roughly between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per child each year. That means for those of us who make \$16.00 an hour and work full time, nearly half of our salary is spent on childcare for one child. Without childcare assistance, I worry that I will not be able to work. I also want to ask that you remove work requirements for Medicaid. Like childcare, affording healthcare is nearly impossible even with a higher wage. Adding work requirements for Medicaid will cause 60,000 Ohioans like me to lose health coverage.

I ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance and removing work requirements for Medicaid.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Kofi Kwakye  
Kofi Kwakye (Feb 26, 2025 09:02 EST)

Isatou Darboe

Optalis health & rehabilitation

February 27, 2025

Testimony on House Bill 96

Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on HB 96. My name is Isatou Darboe I am with Optalis health & rehabilitation and I represent the CEO Project. I am here to ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance and removing work requirements for Medicaid.

I am a hard worker and taxpayer. I live in Columbus. Raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance would allow me and many other parents to afford childcare while earning a livable wage and providing for our families. In my area, childcare costs roughly between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per child each year. That means for those of us who make \$16.00 an hour and work full time, nearly half of our salary is spent on childcare for one child. Without childcare assistance, I worry that I will not be able to work. I also want to ask that you remove work requirements for Medicaid. Like childcare, affording healthcare is nearly impossible even with a higher wage. Adding work requirements for Medicaid will cause 60,000 Ohioans like me to lose health coverage.

I ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance and removing work requirements for Medicaid.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



Isatou Darboe (Feb 26, 2025 07:30 EST)

Jackson <sup>Saget</sup>  
Sister Sister Childcare First Steps  
CEO

February 27, 2025

Testimony on House Bill 96

Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on HB 96. My name is Jackson, I am with ~~CEO~~ Sister Sister and I represent the CEO Project. I am here to ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance and removing work requirements for Medicaid.

I am a hard worker and taxpayer. I live in Columbus. Raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance would allow me and many other parents to afford childcare while earning a livable wage and providing for our families. In my area, childcare costs roughly between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per child each year. That means for those of us who make \$16.00 an hour and work full time, nearly half of our salary is spent on childcare for one child. Without childcare assistance, I worry that I will not be able to work. I also want to ask that you remove work requirements for Medicaid. Like childcare, affording healthcare is nearly impossible even with a higher wage. Adding work requirements for Medicaid will cause 60,000 Ohioans like me to lose health coverage.

I ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance and removing work requirements for Medicaid.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Marita Fuller

Sister sister Childcare First Steps

February 27, 2025

Testimony on House Bill 96

Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on HB 96. My name is Marita Fuller I am with Sister sister \_\_\_\_\_ and I represent the CEO Project. I am here to ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance and removing work requirements for Medicaid.

I am a hard worker and taxpayer. I live in Columbus. Raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance would allow me and many other parents to afford childcare while earning a livable wage and providing for our families. In my area, childcare costs roughly between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per child each year. That means for those of us who make \$16.00 an hour and work full time, nearly half of our salary is spent on childcare for one child. Without childcare assistance, I worry that I will not be able to work. I also want to ask that you remove work requirements for Medicaid. Like childcare, affording healthcare is nearly impossible even with a higher wage. Adding work requirements for Medicaid will cause 60,000 Ohioans like me to lose health coverage.

I ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance and removing work requirements for Medicaid.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

MEF

Marita Fuller (Feb 26, 2025 06:27 EST)

Thalia Osei

Sister Sister First Step Academy, LLC

February 27, 2025

Testimony on House Bill 96

Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on HB 96. My name is Thalia Osei, I am with Sister Sister First Step Academy, LLC and I represent the CEO Project. I am here to ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance and removing work requirements for Medicaid.

I am a hard worker and taxpayer. I live in Columbus. Raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance would allow me and many other parents to afford childcare while earning a livable wage and providing for our families. In my area, childcare costs roughly between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per child each year. That means for those of us who make \$16.00 an hour and work full time, nearly half of our salary is spent on childcare for one child. Without childcare assistance, I worry that I will not be able to work. I also want to ask that you remove work requirements for Medicaid. Like childcare, affording healthcare is nearly impossible even with a higher wage. Adding work requirements for Medicaid will cause 60,000 Ohioans like me to lose health coverage.

I ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance and removing work requirements for Medicaid.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



Thalia Osei (Feb 25, 2025 22:55 EST)

# Kathleen Browning

Sister Sister Childcare: First Steps

February 27, 2025

Testimony on House Bill 96

Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on HB 96. My name is Kathleen Browning, a childcare program, and I represent the CEO Project. I am here to ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the childcare improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially investing in childcare as the workforce behind the workforce and by removing work requirements to Medicaid eligibility.

As an invested worker in childcare in Columbus, I am one of many who nurture and care for our youngest Ohioans, but I and many others are living paycheck to paycheck. Childcare costs roughly between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per child each year. That means for those of us who make \$16.00 an hour and work full time, nearly half of our annual salary would be spent on childcare for one child. Like childcare, finding health coverage is nearly impossible. Most small childcare businesses cannot afford to offer it to us. Work requirements for Medicaid will cause an additional 60,000 Ohioans like me to lose health coverage.

It is important to point out that while this budget is moving in the right direction, we need smart solutions to engage in more ways to bring about smart solutions to the problems facing childcare workers. Please support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the childcare improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially investing in childcare as the workforce behind the workforce and by removing work requirements to Medicaid eligibility.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



Kathleen Browning (Feb 26, 2025 08:52 EST)