

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 3-10-25

Name: Raya Anderson

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: Parent Advocate

Address: 823 Steele Ave

City: Dayton State: Ohio Zip: 45410

Best Contact Telephone: 937-367-3396 Email: rayagist@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): 96

Specific Issue: FY 2026-7 Budget

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 5 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Parent advocate supporting more funding for affordable childcare

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Raya Anderson
Parent Advocate

3/10/2025

Ohio House/Senate Finance and Budget Committee:

Chairperson, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Raya Anderson, and I am a Kinship mother of an autistic seven year old boy from Dayton. I am here today to urge you to prioritize critical investments in early childhood programs in Ohio's FY2026-27 state budget, House Bill 96.

As someone who became a single mother overnight, when she took in a church member's grandson, I know how difficult finding reliable, affordable childcare as a working mother. It took over three months to get a spot in Early Head Start. The early interventions he received help to get his development delays diagnosed early. Amir was able to start speech and occupational therapies right away, making a positive impact for his future. I know firsthand how important it is to support young children and working families.

Groundwork Ohio has outlined key priorities that will strengthen our state's early childhood system, including:

1. **Make work pay for working families with young children.**
 - o **Increase access to affordable, quality child care** for working families to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
 - o **Implement a refundable child tax credit** for working parents with young children.

2. **Improve health outcomes for moms and babies.**
 - o **Increase access to evidence-based home visiting** programs including expanding the Family Connects model statewide.
 - o **Invest and scale community impact models like Cradle Cincinnati** to encourage collaboration between women, clinicians, hospitals, managed care and other community partners to reduce infant and maternal mortality.

3. **Support quality early learning experiences that prepare children for Kindergarten.**
 - o **Invest in effective early childhood educators** to meet the growing needs of young children by improving payment practices to child care programs.
 - o **Strengthen Early Development and Literacy Support:** Increase state investment in Early Intervention (Part C) to ensure timely evaluations, assessments, and service coordination for infants and toddlers with

developmental delays, while also expanding access to evidence-based early literacy initiatives, including curricula grounded in the science of reading and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio.

These policies will not only help children thrive but also boost Ohio's workforce and economy. I urge you to fully fund these initiatives to ensure every child gets the best start in life.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Ohio's children and families. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raya Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Raya Anderson