

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: February 24, 2025

Name: Rev. Mary Gene Boteler

Are you representing: Yourself ☒ Organization ☐

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: 65 Haddam Place W

City: Westerville State: OH Zip: 43081

Best Contact Telephone: 740.704.0983 Email: mgboteler@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): HB 96

Specific Issue: Operating Budget, School Funding

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? Written testimony only.

Please provide a brief statement on your position: The adequate funding of public schools is essential to a strong democracy. Our funding system in Ohio is broken. The willingness of the legislature to cut funding to public education while increasing funding for private school vouchers is a little disguised attempt to destroy public education in favor of private (mostly religious) schools. It is nothing short of the funding of religion. Budget cuts to public education hurt Ohio children and allow the most vulnerable children to fall between the cracks. Defunding public education will eventually result in a need to increase social programs for those who have been left behind. It is incredibly shortsighted. I call on those who seek to be public servants to put the wellbeing of the public front and center.

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.