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**Testimony to the Ohio House Education Committee
Madi Whetstone, Student
Lima Shawnee High School
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Good afternoon Chairwoman Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the committee. My name is Madi Whetstone, and I am a senior at Lima Shawnee High School. I am here today because I know how important school meals are for my classmates and friends.

In high school, we are juggling a lot - classes, sports, jobs, college applications. But one thing no student should have to worry about is whether they will have enough to eat. I have friends who skip meals because they do not qualify for free lunch but still cannot afford to buy food every day. Others grab a bag of chips instead of a real meal because they do not want to stand out in the lunch line. No one should have to choose between eating and feeling embarrassed.

When we are hungry, it is harder to focus in class, harder to perform on the field, and harder to be our best. Universal school meals would mean every student gets the food they need, no questions asked. Governor DeWine's budget is a great start, but we need to go further. I ask you to fully fund school meals for all students in Ohio.

Thank you for your time.