



**Interested Party Testimony- House HHS Subcommittee  
HB 96- State Operating Budget  
March 13, 2023**

Chair Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla and Ranking Member Sweeney - Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 96, the State Operating Budget, in support of MY Project USA's funding request which would appropriate \$350,000 in each fiscal year within the Department of Job and Family Service's TANF Block Grant for MY Project USA to provide mentoring, recreation, leadership, and literacy programming for at-risk youth.

My name is Mukumbira Mukumbira, and I am 18 years old. I graduated from Briggs High School last year and now starting as a student at Columbus State Community College.

When Sister Zerqa asked me to speak today, I knew it was very important to be here. I wanted to be here to be able to speak up against the violence that happens in my community, and how MY Project USA has made a direct impact on my life. It is critical that I live to see another day, and MY Project USA makes that possible for me and so many other kids in my community because of the support they give and how it dwells as a safe haven for many of us.

MY Project USA has changed my life for the better, and I am forever grateful. I've been a part of MY Project USA programming for 6 years. During my time with the organization, I've participated in the soccer program and helped with the food pantry. MY Project USA is helping me to succeed in school, become a positive leader, and creating a job opportunity for me to help assist in the food pantry and as an assistant soccer coach.

I could not have graduated and be a soccer coach today, if it wasn't for MY Project USA. It not only saved and transformed my life, but it also has transformed my entire neighborhood, Wedgewood Village Apartments. But the job is not done. We have hundreds of kids in South Park and other apartments on the westside that are still dealing with the same danger as I was in the last ten years.

I want to be able to give back and see the younger kids happy and getting better at soccer. Our younger players look up to us, and if we are doing the right things, they will, too. Thank you for allowing me to be here and to share my story. MY Project USA saved my life.

**I respectfully ask you to support our amendment.**

**I can take any questions you may have at this time.**

**Thank you.**

Mukumbira Mukumbira  
MY Project USA Soccer Coach