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House Finance Committee  
March 12, 2025  
Interested Party Testimony on HB 96  
Jennifer Glenn, OSPA President

Chairman Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding appropriations for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

As the President of the Ohio School Psychologists Association, I represent more than 800 school psychologists across the state. School psychologists are highly trained experts across a spectrum of support service in schools. These include providing individual behavioral and mental health supports to students, evaluating students for learning disabilities, educational data analysis, and collaborating with other educators to implement systems change and the building and district level.

There are currently nine graduate training programs in School Psychology in Ohio. Training requires a 1200-hour internship in order to graduate and obtain licensure. The Department of Education and Workforce's budget includes money to pay for the school psychology intern program. This money is under the Special Education Enhancements line item.

I went to graduate school out of state, and completed my unpaid internship out of state. I worked full-time in a school to complete my internship hours, then worked after school each day as a tutor, and then had an additional job that I worked until 10:00 or 11:00 at night. I was barely surviving. I could not always devote the time I needed to my studies, or to completing my internship-related duties, as these also often required time outside of school hours.

The school psychology internship program in Ohio was established in the 1960s and has matched the teacher minimum salary schedule until the last several years. It has been flat-funded for the past eight years, meaning that interns are typically making only around \$30,000 a year. Training programs discourage interns from taking additional jobs due to the amount of time an internship requires. However, \$30,000 is at the poverty level, so many interns are forced to also work another job. I know from experience how difficult this is.



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The proposed budget allocates \$3 million per year to the intern line item. OSPA requests that it be funded at \$4.3 million, which would provide a salary of around \$35,000 per intern. If the internship line item were to be raised in tandem with the state teacher minimum salary as it was intended, the burden on interns would be lessened. If it is not, we risk losing our interns to neighboring states with more competitive internship salaries. A competitive internship salary is a prudent investment in the recruitment, high-quality preparation, and retention of psychologists in schools. The services provided by interns increase the capacity of schools to address the academic, mental and behavioral health needs of students, and have lasting effects.

Respectfully submitted,

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President, Ohio School Psychologists Association