



# Center FOR Christian Virtue

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3/12/25

To: Chair Stewart  
Vice Chair Dovilla  
Ranking Member Sweeney  
House Finance Committee

From: David Mahan  
Policy Director  
Center for Christian Virtue

Re: HB96: Ohio Adolescent Health Centers Funding

Chair Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee, my name is David Mahan and I am testifying on behalf of the Center for Christian Virtue, Ohio's largest Christian public policy organization. I am here today to urge your support of the Ohio Adolescent Health Center's (OAH) budget request for FY2026-2027.

While some in this committee may be hearing about the Ohio Adolescent Health Centers for the first time, they are certainly no stranger to thousands of satisfied teachers, students and parents across the Buckeye state. OAH is not only the largest prevention network in the State, but they are also the second largest prevention network in the nation. Since 2016, OAH has served approximately 564,000 students across nearly 80% of Ohio's 88 counties. That's more than half a million kids that the Ohio Department of Health, The Ohio Department of Education, and hundreds of public schools have entrusted OAH to consistently deliver **evidence-based** and **developmentally appropriate**, risk avoidance instruction to over the years! Students typically receive 5-10 sessions of classroom programming as scheduled by each school, and all curricula meet the state and federal requirements for risk avoidance and healthy relationship instruction.

However, their programs go far beyond simply meeting requirements. As a former Director and classroom educator of a program that reached about 10,000 Central Ohio students per year from the inner-city to the cornfields, and detention centers



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to county fairs, I can attest to the fact that nearly all of OAHC programs expand as a result of grateful teachers and students singing their praises to other schools in the area. Even though they are often called upon to address tough topics like substance abuse, teen pregnancy, violence and human trafficking, teachers are always amazed at how well received our instructors are by their students. One Central Ohio teacher had this to say about the OAHC program that has served her school for over a decade,

**“When CSC instructors are teaching, my students just love coming to my class... it’s one of the highlights of the year!”** – Pickerington North High School Teacher, Alicia Newbury (CSC)

One popular lesson taught in grades 6-12 is the “Success Sequence”, which is a three-pronged framework for poverty avoidance based upon the groundbreaking findings of the Brookings Institute. After years of monitoring a cohort of millennial youth from the late nineties into adulthood, their research found that of the students that **1. graduated high school, 2. worked a full-time job in their twenties, and 3. waited until marriage to have children**, an astounding 97% avoided poverty, and 86% made it into the middle or upper income brackets! **HOW EMPOWERING IS THAT!** What parent wouldn’t want their child to learn that regardless of what cards they were dealt in life, the most successful poverty avoidance strategy is well within their reach! Even when adjusting for race, 96% of Blacks and 97% of Hispanics avoid poverty when they follow all three steps.

Students don’t just need to hear about all of the negative consequences to be feared or settled for. They need to be inspired and educated about all of the positive consequences to be achieved through healthy relationships, hard-work, and self-control. This is the type of POSITIVE youth development that keeps hundreds of schools scheduling them back, year after year. But in order to keep answering those calls, meeting those state requirements, and positively impacting those lives, OAHC is requesting \$7.8 million (annually) to reach their full capacity of over 125,000 students per year. The good news is that based upon the four year ROI study conducted by Social Capital Valuations, a third party firm based in Reston, VA, for every \$1.00 invested in OAHC Programs, there is an \$18.63 return on investment!

The OAHC budget requests, ROI study and program evaluations are **ATTACHED**. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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*The Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that endeavors to create an Ohio where God's blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected. [www.ccv.org](http://www.ccv.org) -- (513) 733-5775*