

House Finance Committee
Proponent Testimony on HB 96
Submitted by: Priya Gajmier, Foster Child, Accompanied by: Tekisha Boone
April 2, 2025

Thank you, Chair Brian Stewart, Vice Chair Michael Dovilla, Ranking Member Bride Rose Sweeney, and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 96. I ask that you include funding for House Bill 25's Foster-to-College Scholarship Program in House Bill 96 through amendments HC1399 or HC0787.

I'm 10 years old and I am about to finish 4th grade at East Columbus Elementary School.

Ironically, I live in Representative Jarrell's District with my Foster parents, Maggie and Austin but I don't really know him too well. I just met him today with one of my favorite advocates, Ms. Kisha. She told us about House Bill 25 the last time I visited.

I am a proud member of the Butanese-Nepali refugee community, although I myself was born in the United States.

Sadly, both of my parents died a little more than a year apart, in 2023 and 2024. And that is when I became a part of the foster care community.

I am a girl with many dreams, an infectious smile, and a pretty cool personality. One day I'd like to be Miss Ohio's outstanding teen.

My biggest dream is to be a nurse. There are so many things about being a nurse that are really important. For example:

- Knowing what to do when a kid passes out
- Taking blood
- Giving shots
- Caring for others

I realize I have a lot to learn, and I want to be able to go to college to learn about all these things.

House Bill 25 (amendments HC1399 or HC0787 in HB96) will ensure I can afford the education needed to be a nurse.