

HB 96 WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 04/07/2025

Name: Students At Meadowdale Career Technology Center

Are you representing: Yourself **Organization**

Organization (If Applicable): Dayton Public Schools

Position/Title: Students

Address: 3873 Whitestone Court City: State: Zip: Dayton, OH 45416

Best Contact Telephone: 937-903-5414 Email: kodonnell@daytonpublic.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? **Yes**

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): House Bill 96

Specific Issue: Domestic Violence Funding

Are you testifying as a: **Interested Party**

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? **Yes**

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? **Each testimony is 1-3 minutes. There are 4 testimonies related to domestic violence.**

Please provide a brief statement on your position: **The following testimonies advocate for more funding to be allocated to programs that address domestic violence.**

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

We Need Domestic Violence Resources

January 6, 2025

Testimonies by KT4, DP2, CR4, and LJ4.

London Jackson: Fund Programs that Help People Leave their Abusers

To my local, state, and federal representatives to the legislative branch,

I would love for the representatives to address all of the domestic violence cases we have today. [38% of women and 33% men](#) of Ohio have experienced violence with their significant other (Dolan Zimmerman). In 2019 there were [76,203 law enforcement calls](#) for domestic violence incidents (Dayton Daily News). This is taking a toll on the mental and physical health of the victims, and creating an increased demand for social services. An average of 24 people a minute are victims of physical abuse, rape and or stalking by their intimate partner ([National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)). This can rub off on kids that see this and permanently affect their mental health just as much and change the outlook on how family relations should be, leading to long term issues. There can be economic consequences like the father or mother losing their jobs. At its worst, domestic violence can turn into murder.

This issue matters to me because I have witnessed domestic violence for a majority of my life and I know how it can affect people. We must step up to support victims by advocating for them and educating others on family violence. It affects people in every country regardless of religion, culture or economic status. It doesn't only affect the victims but also their families and communities.

The reason why this is happening is because of control and power dynamics, and mental health issues. Some people use violence to exert dominance in their relationships. The people around in the community should advocate and communicate with police. This will take a lot of awareness and education for those who don't know. There are hotlines you can call but when do you think someone will have the time to make a call and vent about what's hurting them with no help? This simply is not enough for victims. Hotlines alone will not help them get away from their situations. Problems will still linger on in the homes. It's not as easy to leave as you think until you're in that situation. You can't just get up and walk away from these types of things because they will still follow you.

I believe that our representatives should try to focus on creating and enforcing laws that protect these victims and provide them the necessary support. They have the power of legislation and awareness campaigns. It is a reasonable request because domestic violence is a serious issue that affects many individuals and families. If we don't stop this it will only lead to more cases of murder or even worse. This will forever be a generational curse. If we succeed we'll have a safer and supportive environment, we can reduce these cases. How will you make this your business to give people the better help and love that they deserve? Have you ever witnessed the hurt that goes on?

The Pulitzer Center reported that across the globe, funding for domestic violence prevention went down by more than \$150 million between 2020 and 2022. We must decide if we want to be part of that downward spiral, or if we want to show that we really do care about stopping violence at home. It's not just about more strictly punishing people who abuse their loved ones, though that is important. We also must provide the funding needed for programs that help people leave abusive situations, and help them get back on their feet after so they

don't have to go back to their abusers. As a representative, you have the power to write laws and direct our tax dollars to worthy projects. Can you commit to protect funding for programs like the [Violence Against Women Act](#)?

We can follow the example of Uganda and build more safe houses that help people flee their abusers. We can take a lesson from Rwanda, where they started programs that teach men how to be role models and have healthy relationships ([Moraa Obiria, Pulitzer Center](#)). No one should have to endure violence at home.

I close with the words of Joseph Ouna, a village elder in Nairobi who was [interviewed by Pulitzer journalists](#): “wako wengi wanaumia lakini kuongea ni shida (There are many who are victims but they can't talk).” Please, representatives, be the voice for the survivors and victims who cannot speak.

KT4: Expand VAWA and Domestic Violence Resources

I respectfully ask the representative to address the problem of the amount of Domestic Violence cases. Each day in the U.S., 3 women are murdered by a current or former intimate partner. Domestic violence stems from a desire to gain and maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abusive people believe they have the right to control and restrict their partner's lives. Children who are victims of abuse often do more poorly in school and relationships and carry those outcomes into society, future relationships, and the job market. Every 9 seconds in the U.S. a woman is assaulted or beaten. Every year, 1 in 3 women who is a victim of homicide is murdered by her current or former partner. An average of 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States. Preventing you from making your own decisions,

including about working or attending school. Controlling finances in the household without discussion, including taking your money or refusing to provide money for necessary expenses. The reason I'm doing this topic is because I have family members that have been through domestic violence and I wouldn't want anyone else going through bad things like this. You could call a women's shelter or domestic violence hotline for advice, or You need someone that supports you and also believes you. Violence puts a massive burden on national economies in health care, law enforcement and lost productivity.

Domestic violence stems from a desire to gain and maintain power and control over an intimate partner. The police and the government medical treatment and lost future wages. VAWA creates and supports comprehensive responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, including providing federal resources to support coordinated community approaches. education about healthy relationships, gender equality, consent, respect, and empathy Women may not feel comfortable talking about something so intimate the first time it is mentioned, or they may not recall incidents that took place long ago. This is why studies that include only one or two questions on violence usually result in substantial under-reporting of abuse.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) creates and supports comprehensive, cost-effective responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. The law set forth federal law crimes for crossing state lines to commit intimate partner domestic violence or to violate a protection order. The law provides legal assistance for survivors of domestic violence who seek protection or restraining orders. May 26, 2023 I think this is a great request in my opinion because this is a big problem that needs to be solved. If we do nothing about domestic violence then people will keep getting hurt and

abused. People will stop getting hurt and there will be less killings and people dying. Can you commit to what I'm requesting because I know you wouldn't want your mom, sister or any lady in your family getting abused.

DP2: We Need Counseling for Domestic Violence Situations

Domestic violence can result to many things, trauma, bruising, and some people will be so hurt they would commit suicide. It's messing with half of these women in our community and they end up hurt with a bad pass & that's a hard thing to let go of after it happens. To some women it's stuck with them.

An average of 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States ([Hotline](#)). It could really mess with their mental health a lot because after someone is beaten they could go through bad trauma or mental issues and some might need therapy to get through it. Sometimes others can't get through it, so it affects them daily because they are still stuck with the problems in their head, maybe having flashbacks.

Women have a higher rate than men with the domestic violence issue and that's a problem we need to help solve and get down. Women don't deserve to go through this type of pain or trauma of domestic violence. We must stop this problem and continue to help in many ways to prevent this so fewer people have to suffer from trauma and mental health issues. Women like to talk a lot so men just decide to put their hands on them. The responsibility falls on the one who used physical violence, mostly men in this situation.

There's not really a price to make this stop. It's up to the two people in the relationship on what they're gonna do. I recommend that we make

Couple's therapy available for more people, even those who can't afford it. This will give people a space to work out their relationship issues before the situation becomes abusive.

We can't expect everyone to have the money for counseling. We don't want women or men getting beaten on. If couples go through it, I suggest they should go to couple therapy. If we do nothing, more women would be beaten and suffer trauma & mental health to the point that they want to hurt themselves or have bad thoughts because of their past.

If we take responsibility for helping people out of abusive relationships, we'll see fewer people suffering from trauma and mental health issues and we would have less men going to jail for this problem. Can you commit to add resources in the budget for domestic violence prevention and survivor support?

CR4: Address Domestic Violence Before it Begins

I'm writing this letter to the representative to address the issues we have with men's domestic violence. One in seven men have been the victim of physical and mental abuse from their significant other ([HOT](#)). Victims handle domestic violence in many ways of domestic violence is linked to increased risk for posttraumatic stress disorder, depression and suicide ([PSY](#)).

According to the group Domestic Shelters, "Domestic violence against men is real and takes just as many forms as domestic violence against women—physical, sexual, reproductive, financial, emotional and psychological."([Domestic shelter](#)) Up to 50 percent of survivors of intimate partner violence who are employed are harassed at work by their abusive partners ([CODP](#)).

Men's domestic violence does not get talked about as much as women. This issue affects people oftentimes leading to PTSD ([PSY](#)). This matters to me because I've experienced physical violence from a significant other.

Listen without judgment: I think the second Amendment should but used to its fullest extent against physical abuse. Domestic violence takes a heavy toll on victims. Leaving mental scars on people who just don't know how to cope with that trauma. Domestic abuse is about power and control. Your partner belittles you and hurts you to show you who's boss and to frighten you into behaving how they want. Your partner might blame outside circumstances ([Sheffield dact](#))

From the Common pleas court up, it is up to the justice system to serve justice in these cases and go to the fullest length to make sure justice is served. The Violence Against Women Act was renewed in 2022 to help survivors of domestic violence get justice. That law expanded "restorative practice programs that prevent or address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and [supported] victim-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive restorative practices addressing these harms."

Supporting VAWA alone is not enough because it does not protect victims from being attacked. Most of the resources are for after the victim gets assaulted. People can't solve this problem themselves because the only way is more violence and everybody isn't capable of protecting themselves.

I need the government to expand the second amendment to where anybody should be able to protect themselves from the dangers of going outside. You have the power to protect your citizens. This is reasonable because don't nobody likes being assaulted. People will

protect themselves without the justice system behind them. If we were to fix this problem maybe some people wouldn't be messed up in the head especially if most dangerous people have some type of background in domestic violence. Can you do something to help protect these victims before domestic violence happens?