

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: Funding for Recreation Centers

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 2-3 minutes. There are five testimonies related to youth recreation.**

Please provide a brief statement on your position: **The following testimonies advocate for more funding for recreation centers to give youth activities outside of schools.**

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 Recreation Centers

October 23, 2024

What do we do about youth violence? Give kids something to do! Students in Government class wrote proposals for how they would use the state budget to rebuild the recreation centers and public pools that were once part of our community.

Centers and Pools Can Decrease Youth Violence

Read our reasoning for why we think recreation centers and pools will decrease youth violence. These testimonies are from TBu4, DEP1, Tamia Lucas, Henry Spivey, and Marques Farrar.

We hope to address youth violence. Kids end up hurt, or worse maybe even in juvenile detention. I've seen some kids fight just because they can. It's happening because kids have nothing better to do. If we do nothing, kids will keep fighting and getting into trouble. We must build places for kids to have fun and feel safe like recreation centers, libraries, and areas for kids to study. If we create recreation centers, libraries, and study tables, kids will be off the streets and out of trouble. **To the people who control where our tax dollars go, would you be willing to increase funding for rec centers, libraries, and study tables to help keep kids off the streets?** *From DEP1*

We can lessen the violence by addressing the lack of activities to do for the youth on the West Side of Dayton. It affects the youth because they are so bored they go do something bad. I want more activities because I am bored after school. We used to have pools but they closed it. If we don't have any activities, kids will keep doing bad things. We must fund more money for activities to do. **Put Funds in**

parks, rec centers, and pools. We will know this project is successful if youth crime goes down. *From Henry Spivey*

There are no public pools in dayton. This makes the community upset and people have to travel a 20 minutes car ride to go swimming. This causes the problem like nobody wants to take me and friends swimming because of the car ride. This problem is happening because Dayton closed all public pools, leaving us with nothing. This problem could be being caused by the community also due to them messing up the pools. If we keep the pools empty, communities will stay upset and kids won't be able to swim or enjoy swimming much as a child. Build public pools in all neighborhoods. If all pools are built properly and fully public then the investment was 100% successful. **To the people who control the budget, would you be willing to re-open 5 public pools across the 5 largest neighborhoods in Dayton?** *From Marques Farrar*

We hope to address teens being bored after school, Because after school, teens fight. Teenagers get bored and don't have anything to do so they go downtown and mess things up. I have seen teens walk up to things and break them. I've also seen teens fight over the dumbest reason ever. This problem is happening because teens have nothing to do after school. If you do nothing then the problem will just keep happening. To address this problem we need to build after school entertainment. We will spend tax dollars to build an entertainment center. I think this will be successful because teens will no longer be bored. – **From Tamia Lucas, Edited by TM4**

Recreation Centers Will Address Youth Violence, by TVB4

I respectfully ask the representative to address the lack of recreational centers in our local community. Recreational centers like

The Boys and Girls Club are facilities that are publicly open for everyone to join and indulge in sports, interaction, and overall a place for everyone to chill and have fun. These centers are specifically used for the youth to have something to do after school or whenever they have nowhere else to go ([Cambridge Dictionary](#)). Teenagers are out here stealing cars and other property that doesn't belong to them. If they had a place to rest and indulge in activities that help them grow and become decent people, this wouldn't have even been a problem in the first place. Fox19 reports that a group of teens from Dayton stole a car in Butler County, leading to a pursuit into Montgomery County ([Ken Brown](#)). Police are saying that even if you lock your car, there's still a high chance it might get stolen. People are scared that their cars might be stolen and there's nothing they can do about it besides praying..They would have to get a new car, using money that could've gone to something more useful. My grandma almost got her car stolen by these teenagers. If it wasn't for her neighbors catching them and reporting them to the police, my grandma would have no way to come see us because she doesn't have a car.

The government should put more money into recreational facilities in cities like Dayton. Across the world other people's property is getting stolen by these gang members.This problem is happening because these teenagers are influenced by the people around them and social media. The Parents allowed their children to indulge in certain activities without keeping a close eye on them and the government didn't do anything to help with making more recreational centers so they should have the responsibility to help these kids.

We should put our tax dollars into making more recreational facilities specifically for the youth and the facilities should be easily accessible and easy to get to. Even though no action has been taken to try and make more facilities, there has been news that Dayton wants to

upgrade recreational facilities with cool places like dog parks, kid parks, basketball/tennis courts and many more ([Cornelius Frolik](#), DDN) These places are hard to get to. Maybe if everybody from their communities helped to put money into making at least one recreational facility around their parts that might help, but even then the situation won't go away completely. That's why we need help from the higher ups. We need our representatives to speak up and put more money into making more recreational facilities or put more money into recreational facilities yourself. You have the power to change taxes and know where to put the money.

We're not asking you to do much, just putting this little money into recreational facilities can be a great investment into the future of Dayton and making it a better place for everyone. If we do not take action, more people will get their property stolen and more teenagers would want to join, making people fear for their lives and property when stepping out of their house. On the other hand, if we can get more facilities into our communities there would almost certainly be no thugs or teenagers roaming our streets, making future generations and Dayton as a whole feel safe and secure. Recreational activities can go beyond basketball courts. For example, the Sicangu Youth Program helps keep young people active with a blend of cultural activities, life skills, and athletics ([Rosewood and Munoz](#)).

Can you commit to putting 2-3 million dollars into creating more recreational facilities for our communities?

Sincerely,

TVB4

<https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/rosebud-changing-trajectory-lakota-sioux-youth-through-education-and-community>

<https://www.daytondailynews.com/local/dayton-wants-to-upgrade-rec-centers-and-parks-may-close-some-obsolete-parks/KNOAGVGVYBH75GPGQJ2T5HTNLQ/>

<https://fox19.com/2024/10/08/watch-teen-car-thieves-steal-hit-warren-county-again/>

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/recreation-center>