

# 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](mailto: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: Addiction Resources and Rehabilitation 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 1-2 minutes. There are seven testimonies related to providing more support for addiction and rehabilitation programs.**

Please provide a brief statement on your position: **The following testimonies advocate for more funding for programs that address addiction among youth.**

*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 to Address Drug Addiction

December 7, 2024

**Testimony by TiAndre' Turner, DD1, JH4, CJR4, CC3, Dyi'lai'kei Bass, and QD4. Dyi'lai'kei's story was also published in the [Dayton Daily News](#). Edited by Le'Javion Raglin and Darion Pace-Anders. Testimony read by Evalea Cortez.**

In order to understand how to handle someone under drug addiction, one must acknowledge how or what is happening to that person that allowed them to partake in such activities. Next, find changes in their behavior as it can change the way that person acts. Unless you have done something to affect that person, approach the conversation by simply asking how their day is going, then ask if they've been doing okay. As time progresses, get to the point where you ask if they're doing drugs. Don't lash out on them, but convince them to tell you the truth. Talk to them about their situation and then try your best to help them out. There's certain people who will only allow you to know what they tell rather than everything. No one truly knows what another is going through until they decide to open the door. — **Le'Javion Raglin**

Read below what students at Meadowdale CTC think should be done about addiction.

**TiAndre' Turner: "Spend Taxpayer Dollars on Rehabs."**

The problem I hope to address is youth drug addiction. The youth make bad decisions that affect the people around them. The impact is that they will do anything in their power for their next high. This problem is happening because they easily get influenced by the wrong people, for example family members or friends. If we do nothing to address this problem it will get worse all over the world. We must take action NOW! I would spend taxpayer dollars on rehabs.

**DD1: “People with drug addiction can become successful.”**

I hope to address addiction. It affects people because of their health. The impact it has is people on drugs can hurt people because they can black out. And don't know what they did or are doing. This problem is happening because that person might have gone through something and drugs make them not feel anything. What would happen is people would die more and more because of what they put into their body. Give people help and clean so their health can get better. I would buy a place for people in need and try to better themselves and live better. People with drug addiction can become successful in life. – **Read by Evalea Cortez to the County Commissioners**

**JH4: “Educate students about the consequences of drug use.”**

We hope to address the problem of drug addiction in our community. These drug addictions are causing health problems, wealth problems, and even death. People are using drugs for pleasure when in reality they are bringing pain. I witnessed that drugs make people crazy. I'm tired of seeing drug addicts in the street begging for money on the roads for more drugs. This problem is happening because people who don't know what drugs can do to you can get curious and attempt to try them or get offered by people who have drugs and get manipulated. If we do nothing more people will be addicted to drugs in the county and can eventually spread more around the world. To address this problem we need to hire more people to teach others that drugs are harmful, addictive, and that they can ruin their lives. We will spend tax dollars to educate students about the consequences of drug use and what it will do to people. We will see this project successful when the number of drug addicts decreases drastically. –

**Edited by DPA4**

#### **CJR4: “People don’t know how to have fun without being high.”**

We hope to address the drug addiction problem. This problem affects our community because it’s not a good influence for the youth. The impact it has on everyone else is that people don’t know how to have fun without being high. If We don’t address this problem It could get worse and more people will die from taking so many drugs. For us to address this problem we must figure out why people take drugs so we can get them some type of help. We need incentives to make them want to not spend all of their money on drugs.

#### **CC3: “More Rehabs Need To Be In the City“**

We hope to address drug addictions because of how many deaths and new dangerous drugs that are been getting in the U.S. We need a change to these drug addictions and it will only reduce if everyone works together. This problem affects the community because if one of your peers died you and everyone around you that knew them would be saddened. The families would be hurt as well. Overdoses are a real big thing and scares families. Many celebrities and rappers that I’ve listened to have died from this problem. People sell the black market drugs to the streets and it just gets passed along from person to person. You could get addicted if you were to take a highly addictive drug if convinced to take it by another peer. If nothing is done to the drug addictions people will keep dying and drugs would just be everywhere affecting everyone. We need more awareness from the community and yourself so we could reduce the amount of cases from drug deaths. Everyone has to be on the same side so we can stop the deaths. **More rehabs need to be in the city. I would spend tax dollars on the community and rehabs so the community knows they’re just not alone but we’re together.** I will know taxpayer

dollars were put to good use once overdose deaths reduce and less drugs are out there.

**Dyi'lai'kei Bass: 'How many people have died because we didn't listen?'**

**Read this story in the [Dayton Daily News](#).**

It doesn't make sense to talk about drug addiction and mental health separately. The two are intertwined. Drug addiction is happening all over the world, but we can start in Dayton because we got hit hard. Drugs are addicting, deadly, and impact people I know personally. I've seen drugs turn people into addicts and make them extremely violent. People are not taking the problem of drug addiction seriously, and when they do, the impulse is to punish the user. The police just treat it as a crime instead of asking what makes them over use drugs or what makes people sell them.

The main cause of addiction is mental health struggles. People that have mental health issues could be trying to show signs that they need help, but people ignore them. A loved one might act out of character in a way they never acted before, but instead of recognizing the signs that they're struggling with their mental health, they get called insane or crazy. How many people have died because we didn't listen?

People need to understand the situation better before they just push the problem aside and treat it as a crime. I recommend that governments spend funds on making more mental health rehab centers to meet the need. I imagine a place to never get judged and also educate people about drugs and what they do to you mentally, emotionally, and physically. We will know it's successful if you see how

many people avoid death or overdose. While we push for better mental health services, it's important to model a different kind of peer pressure: let's peer pressure people to get off drugs and get the help they need. Let's pressure our leaders to make sure that help is ready when people are ready to heal.

– Dyi'lai'kei Bass is a junior at Meadowdale Career Technology Center in the Business Pathway.

#### **QD4: We're Losing Too Many to Overdoses**

I really want the representative to address the problem of drug abuse. Drug abuse has been a problem for decades. I even have family members who have dealt with this serious problem. There are young people who are even in high school who are dealing with drug addiction and drug abuse as we speak. There are many deaths involving overdoses which deal with drug abuse. I mean death is already serious so if it is from something that is like drug abuse it should show that it is serious enough.

People who have drug problems will do anything for it means paying extreme amounts for it even if they're at their lowest. This could also affect other people's lives who are around them which can involve death. This matters to me because like I said before I have family members who have dealt with drug abuse and I've lost someone to a drug addiction. I believe we should try our hardest to make sure we keep drugs off the streets and instead of sending people to jail because of it we should send people to therapy to help them conquer it to the best of their ability. This problem is connected to others because I know others have dealt with losing loved ones from abuse.

Some say this is part of the government's plan to get rid of us. I believe the government should take this responsibility because I really believe they are the ones who put this out into the world. We've already seen some accountability like the 2,000 lawsuits the US has launched against drug companies that pushed Oxy and other opioids into our neighborhoods ([Kristen Gelineau](#)). However, settlement money alone won't make up for the 400,000 people lost to addiction over two decades ([Claire Galofaro and Francis D'Emilio](#))

Addressing addiction will cost billions at least to get started on solving this problem. If we make sure to get every drug addict some help we could possibly get a start on solving this issue. I believe it's not mentioned enough because no one cares to solve this problem. We can't solve this on our own because we don't have enough funds to even get started. We need to focus on the drugs that are causing the most harm. Fentanyl was responsible for 46 percent of the 140,000 overdose deaths reported in 2020 (Aryana Noroozi)

I need the representatives to help out with the funds to help us get started. They have the power to fund more money to this worldly issue. This is reasonable because there are more people dealing with this issue than we think. If we do nothing this problem will continue to grow and reach other people. If we succeed, many people who were affected by this problem will be better and happier along with their families. How do you believe we could possibly fix this problem? Would you be willing to increase funds to support people getting off drugs?

<https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/one-womans-quest-defy-odds-addiction>

<https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/surging-prescriptions-deaths-australia-faces-opioid-crisis>

<https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/ap-exclusive-sackler-foreign-firm-caught-opioid-probe>