

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: Drivers Education 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 2-3 minutes. There are four testimonies related to putting drivers education classes back in high school**

Please provide a brief statement on your position: **The following testimonies advocate for more funding for public schools to offer driving classes, as was once common in Ohio.**

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 Driving Classes in School

January 2, 2025

Testimonies by TiAndre' Turner, TM7, DM9, and JH1. Graphic by Trae Raye-Redmond.

Edited and Compiled by Qaden Dean. Grammar edits by Henry Spivey, JC4, and MS2.

We want to know why driver's education is not in school anymore and explain why we need to bring it back. By bringing driver's education back into school, students would be able to get a license in a quicker way. Students in our class wrote proposals asking the government to use a portion of the money to bring driver's education back into schools. You can read their responses below and see how the candidates for office said they would vote on increasing funding for drivers' education. — Qaden Dean

TM7: Drivers Education in School

I hope to address the youth that don't have proper access to getting their license. The lack of students having their license can put strain on parents by having to drive them to school/work and/or any extracurriculars or to friends' houses or anything else that may need transportation. In a way this problem directly affects me because if I had easier access to taking my drivers test through the school then I wouldn't have had to wait a month to take the test after scheduling it. The problem is happening because some students just don't have time or the extra transportation to the drivers classes or just aren't motivated enough to actually go and try and get their license or take the classes. If we do nothing about this problem we will end up having people in their mid late 20's without their license freeloading off people

and needing a ride from you all the time, either that or they'll go and get their license after they turn 18 and don't have to take the classes and then we'll have more stupid drivers that don't know what they're doing on the road.

To address this problem we need to find a way to implement driving classes into schools weather it be an extracurricular option or an afterschool class that students can sign up for, I feel like if we can get it added into more schools it could make a drastic change in the amount of students getting their license. I would spend the money on getting driving instructors to come to the school and teach the students that are paying for classes the teachers to be driving instructors so that the students could feel more comfortable by having a teacher they already know teaching the class. We will know that this is an effective way of going about the issue if we can get at least 25% of students in classes that don't already have their license or permit and at least 75%-80% of those students coming out with their license or temps. – **Grammar Edits by JC4 and MS2**

JH1: Address Driver Incompetence

We hope to address incompetent drivers who seem like they don't know how to drive. It's a problem that can cause many things, stress, acting on instinct, and crashes. The acting on instinct can also cause more crashes due to if someone stopped suddenly or swerved to dodge one crash could be the cause of another.

It has caused many close calls with my family; we've almost gotten into many crashes due to incompetence or inexperience. This happens because of people either not being trained well enough or being too incompetent to drive safely enough. They may have also had an inexperienced teacher or just see driving rules as too lax.

More crashes can happen if we don't do anything about this problem. We must improve driving schools and teachers, or make driving rules a bit more tense to lower incompetence or weed out those who didn't get trained well enough. I ask lawmakers to tighten up the driving laws and to improve driving schools and test areas. We will know this was successful when the crashes in the country or state decrease more, and less experienced and incompetent people will be present in the streets. – **Grammar Edits by Henry Spivey**

TiAndre' Turner: Put Drivers Education in the Budget

I respectfully ask the representative to address the issue of taking driver education out of school. People need to know vehicle control, understanding traffic signs and signals, safe driving practices, and how to react in emergencies. Young drivers need this because they don't know all the rules and they can end somebody's life or their own life. People who take driving classes are less likely to engage in risky behaviors and are involved in fewer accidents compared to those who do not. Some teens who go through a structured Drivers Ed program are safer on the roads. They are involved in fewer car crashes and receive fewer convictions than those taught by family or friends. It's a proven fact by the AAA Foundations. Teens that go through a structured Drivers Ed program are safer on the roads.

The district and state needs to put driver education back in private and public schools. Because if young people under the age of 18 can't afford driver's education, many times they drive illegally, which impacts road safety, insurance costs, juvenile court and any number of other things. I can't drive legally yet, but I still believe we must put driver ed back in school. Across the world people are struggling to pay for driving education when they just don't have the money to pay for all the classes. When they don't have the money to pay for it, they try

to learn how to drive themselves without knowing all the laws and rules on the road.

The problem is budget cuts. School districts are far more pinched for dollars than they were 20, 30, 40 years ago. When they have to cut programs to save money, driver's ed is usually one of the first programs they cut. Yet driving safely is our biggest responsibility as Citizens. Ohio is offering \$4 million in funding for driver's education programs, which would allow some high schools to use funds to bring back driver's education. Action that had been taken in states and the District of Columbia have enacted GDL laws to give teen drivers more time under less risky circumstances to learn the complex skills required to operate a vehicle. A lot of individuals can't afford class or don't have the support to teach them about the rules and law to be on the road.

Our voices are not being heard enough for the state to put driver education back in high schools. Some State officials say they want to reinstate driver's ed in schools, starting with grant funding. Each representative is elected to a two-year term serving the people of a specific congressional district. Among other duties, representatives introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments and serve on committees. Our representatives have the power to help us with public safety and road safety. We don't want kids driving on neighborhood roads, or highways without knowing the rules and law. That's putting everybody's life in danger. More kids or young adults will just think they can get in a car and just start driving and learn on their own which is not a safe thing to do. The percentage of accidents will decrease but we need to take action now ASAP! The roads would be a lot safer. My question is, Can you make this happen for all the young adults and teens? Can you add funding in the budget to make driving classes affordable for young people?

DM9: Our Generation Deserves Drivers Education, Too

The law I want to provide is the need to place driving classes into every school with a minimum amount of money per month from state governments, especially for schools in poverty. I have no clue why this problem exists, I don't understand why driving classes were taken out of schools. Maybe because we are a career tech school now? We could propose this law to the school board to see their opinions about it, seeing if they believe driving classes are necessary for schools. This problem affects high school students who are unable to receive driving classes or afford the hundreds of dollars needed for classes. People who are affected by this problem all want driving classes to be placed back into schools or either the students may not have the funding for it.

This problem is affecting students because it's leaving a gap for them in their life as they become adults by missing out on the simple lessons of driving. If the problem gets solved every high school student will get educated with excellence on how to drive for only a minimum amount of money per month. If we decided not to do anything about driving classes being placed into schools, this could cause a pause in the students' future life as they grow up.

Community and society will benefit from this proposal because they'll have less crazy teen drivers and it'll also be an opportunity given to everyone in high school. I hope students and their guardians will be glad and hopeful for this new opportunity for the upcoming generations.

Some people would say that there possibly couldn't be any way for driving classes to be placed in schools. Some could also say that they wouldn't find this program to be effective. To those who disagree with

my proposal, Why do you disagree with my proposal? Wouldn't this be helping you as a parent or guardian of a student? Less than a generation ago, most people learned how to drive in their high school. Why can't we go back to that?

It's time for us to gather any teacher, student, guardian, or community member who would like to support getting driving classes back placed into schools for teens. Will you join us in getting drivers classes back in schools?