

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: Youth Jobs 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 5 testimonies related to youth jobs.**

Please provide a brief statement on your position: **The following testimonies advocate for more funding to be allocated to youth employment programs.**

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 Youth Jobs

December 7, 2024

From Danyell Christian– I respectfully ask the representative to address the problem with lack of youth jobs. Most jobs in our communities are for adults only. If young people can't work they won't be able to explore different things and find what job they would like to turn into a lifetime career. They're are 65 million young people that are unemployed worldwide ([Madeleine North](#)). Without youth jobs, minors of the ages 13-18 join the workforce later and won't even know what job they want to do for the long term. This issue affects daily lives because if more teens had jobs it would lower the amount of juvenile crime.

I am a teen myself who struggles with finding a job. More jobs need to be opened for teens ages 13-18. Across the world teens are struggling to help their families because they don't have jobs.

Employers aren't hiring minors. Local representatives can help with this situation because they're the ones that set the budget for many things within the community. You can invest our tax dollars to ensure that youth have job opportunities. Show you care about the youth by making an attempt to help us. Young people can't employ themselves and when young people want to start their own businesses adults still overlook them, and that makes it 10 times more difficult.

When we do find jobs, they're often in fast food. We also need to make sure that workplaces are safe for young workers, like when the U.S. Customs shut down a sugar plantation that was forcing people to work ([Sandy Tolan and Michael Montgomery](#))

Representatives need to consider more youth opportunities in our national, state, and local budgets. You have power to be the voice that the youth needs so we can get the opportunities we deserve. We're not asking for the extreme, we just think youth people should have job opportunities before they are already out in the world stressing themselves out trying to find their career.

Look at South Africa, where they created an apprentice program for students learning how to work on wind turbines ([Jeanne van der Merwe](#)). Look at Nigeria where students in apprentice programs built a new device to get oil out of polluted water ([Omolola Afolabi](#)). Look at India, where schools recruit professionals to pass their career skills on to students ([Furkhan Latif Khan](#)). We can create jobs for high school students that prepare them to make the world better.

If nothing is done the only result will be more juveniles getting in trouble and less people joining the workforce over time. If this issue is fixed we will see an decrease in the amount of youth in prisons and more people will end up working. Will you be the one to speak up for young people? Will you propose an increase in funding for youth jobs?

Sincerely,

Danyell Christian

Submitted to the Pulitzer Center's Local Letters for Global Change

Additional Testimony by KK7, DPA4, DC4, TR3. Edited by DB4, DCr4 and KK7

*What do we do about the lack of jobs for young people? **Hire more youth at the age of 13-18.*** Put more funding towards programs such as youth works that teach you social and career skills.

Here you'll read testimonies from students calling for more funding for youth jobs, as well as responses from political candidates on whether or not they would vote to increase funding.

Student Testimonies

Kameron Kirkpatrick (Co-Editor) — The youth need more opportunities to work at a young age. I was racking in experience as early as thirteen years old, my peers would love to do the same. Without learning fundamental skills that are considered basic or necessary in the workforce they will be a step behind some of their peers. As long as we make more opportunities for the youth to work then we at least put the offer out there for the youth to reject and or accept. Without these opportunities being available and advertised then we can't get jobs for the youth. Programs helping youth acquire jobs would be a great help. If we use some of our tax dollars to fund the programs then they can efficiently do their job of getting jobs for the youth. These dollars can cover expenses such as possible transportation and or even the wages that are paid during the shifts worked by these young people.

TR3 – I hope to address youth employment. People need money to survive. Not having a job prevents these people from helping take care of their families. I believe this is happening because jobs are being replaced by robots. If this continues there will be more homeless people because there aren't any more jobs to apply for. To address this, we must create more jobs or positions for people to work. With

taxpayer funds, I would buy equipment and hire people to get stuff done. If this happens, you will see a big difference in the neighborhoods and communities.

DPA4 – I hope to address youth unemployment. Kids have fewer activities to do if unemployed, and no early career opportunities. I've heard about my friends struggling to get employment and it stresses them out. This problem is occurring because certain people are taking job positions that should be meant for younger audiences, and jobs don't want to take a chance on kids. The youth will have to wait till a certain age to get a job. This soon will spread more across the states. We must open up more positions for certain companies, and build job opportunities for the youth to explore early career options. I'd spend tax dollars to expand programs like YouthWorks to fund or create more youth unemployment programs made for the youth who struggle to receive applications. This program will allow high school students to be referred to certain companies that fit with their future careers. We will know if it's successful when jobs barely have room for applications. Youth unemployment shall decrease by 70% and kids in school become employed. *Read aloud to the County Commission by TR3.*