

# HB 96 WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 05/12/2025

Name: Maki Jenkins, Student At Meadowdale Career Technology Center

Are you representing: Yourself **Organization**

Organization (If Applicable): Dayton Public Schools

Position/Title: Student

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: Education Transportation 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? **1-2 minutes**

Please provide a brief statement on your position: **The following testimony advocates for more funding for buses to public schools.**

## **Bring Back the Buses, By Floyd Ruttagah, read by Maki Jenkins**

I respectfully ask the representative to address that School Transportation is a big problem that needs to be fixed. Not everyone has vehicle transportation, and schools like ours had to give up their yellow buses and put students on mass public transit. It impacts students because they cannot reach school on time and some of them get rejected on the buses because they don't have bus passes. Student's are late to school almost every day riding the public RTA. Adult's in the bus sometimes argue with students. This affects people's lives by not getting to work or school because the bus is full with student's and passengers.

It matters because I ride the RTA bus to school and it's my only transportation. We need to bring back the school buses. Across the world student's are struggling and have challenges to get to school because of the weather sometimes. The DPS schools are using a lot of gas to these buses, and gas costs money.

The Ohio Department of Education has a responsibility to do something about our lack of school transportation. The Ohio government will need to help us bring back the school buses and solve the problem. Bring back the school buses by investing more in school transportation.

These calls are being ignored because the people who run the problem have their own cars so they can't see what's the problem. Most of us are not old enough to drive.

We need representatives to speak up and bring back school buses. You have the power to propose new laws to the legislative branch, and you can call for investigations. We're asking you to use your power to help keep kids safe. Student's freeze and end up sick. They get harassed. If we continue to let transportation suffer, students will not get the education needed. If we do get every kid a bus again, life will be a dream. **Can you commit to increase funds in the budget to bring back the school buses?**