

Testimony of Georgianna Damschroder
Sophomore, Shawnee High School – Lima Ohio
Submitted to the Ohio Senate Education Committee
May 14, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Brenner and members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee.

My name is Georgianna Damschroder, and I am a sophomore at Shawnee High School. I am writing to you to urge the implementation of free lunches for students across the state. This is a pressing issue that cannot be overlooked or put off any further.

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) was put in place a few years back, which provides lunch funding for schools that service low-income areas. However, many schools who need this funding just as much cannot afford it, or lie just outside the area it benefits, making the CEP a step in the right direction, but not the final goal. To fully support our students, we need to establish a fund that covers entrance into the CEP, allowing all students to focus on their education rather than whether or not they will be able to afford to eat that day.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. The future and wellbeing of Ohio students lies in your hands.

###