

HB 96 WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 05/12/2025

Name: Tay'Jamar Riley, Student At Meadowdale Career Technology Center, reading for Jordan Brown

Are you representing: Yourself **Organization**

Organization (If Applicable): Dayton Public Schools

Position/Title: Student

Address: 3873 Whitestone Court

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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.**

JB3: Bus Shortages are Unfair to Families

I respectfully ask the representative to address the problem of public schools not having bus transportation. Dayton Public School students have to ride RTA buses because DPS doesn't have enough money for yellow buses to bring DPS students to school and back. This is impacting people in our community because parents can't bring their kids to school every single day because they're either busy or have to work. Since yellow buses stopped taking students to school, tardies in schools slowly started going up because now students have to be brought to school later than usual since their parents are busy. Students, and parents all are saying how it doesn't make sense that they stopped using yellow buses for transportation and they need to bring them back.

This problem affects people's daily lives because parents have to work jobs in the morning and won't have enough time to take their kids to school. This is also affecting bank accounts because gas prices are high and the amount of driving it takes to bring their kids back and forth from school and practice all year takes a lot of gas money. I don't think my dad should have to take me to school every single day when we could easily have bus transportation. I also don't like walking to school since it's starting to get colder outside and I live 40+ minutes away. DPS should have a board meeting about bringing yellow buses back. Across the world students probably don't have parents that can take them to school every day and because of that they have to walk every day or every other day.

Putting students on the RTA buses is leading to public safety complaints and Chronic absenteeism. DPS changed the bus rules so they should have the responsibility to change the buses back to yellow buses. The effort to bring back DPS yellow buses will cost several million dollars. We also need help from Ohio's lawmakers in the General Assembly. The state government makes our school district pay to bus students to private schools and leaves us with not enough money to bus our own high school students.

We need our representatives to speak up and use their power to propose new laws and funding to get yellow buses back. This is a reasonable request because students around Dayton and other cities are stuck either not being on time to school or not coming to school due to their parents having jobs. If we don't do anything about this problem then students will continue to be late to school or not show up. If we succeed in addressing this problem then students will start showing up to school on time and not being absent most of the days. Can you help our school district start bringing back yellow buses to help students get to school on time more efficiently? Can you do this by providing more funding for public school transportation in the state budget?