

# HB 96 WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 05/12/2025

Name: Sakilee Howard-Jackson, Student At Meadowdale Career Technology Center, reading for TiAndre Turner

Are you representing: Yourself **Organization**

Organization (If Applicable): Dayton Public Schools

Position/Title: Student

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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: 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? **1-2 minutes**

Please provide a brief statement on your position: **The following testimony advocates for more funding to put drivers education back in schools.**

## **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. In our parents and grandparents' generation, we used to have drivers education in high school. When they have to cut programs to save money, drivers 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. 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?