

HB 96 WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 05/12/2025

Name: Ja'Kilyn Johnson, Student At Meadowdale Career Technology Center, reading for Skyler Bowles

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: School Nutrition 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 school lunches.**

Skyler Bowles; School Funding - Breakfast/lunch

Good morning, respected members of the body, administrators, and everyone here today.

My name is Skyler Bowles, I am an 8th grader from Belmont Middle School - A Dayton Public School. I'm here to speak about a critical issue that directly affects the health, well-being, and academic success of our students—the potential budget cuts to our school breakfast and lunch services due to a lack of school funding. According to the Dayton Daily News “Dayton Public Schools, ended fiscal year 2024 with nearly \$139.2 million cash on hand, equivalent to roughly 58.2% of its budget, according to the LSC. The district would have to lower that amount by more than \$67 million under the budget proposal.”

Lawmakers please know that for many students, the meals provided at school are their most reliable source of nutrition that they have. Breakfast and lunch are not just about feeding their bodies - they're about setting them up for success in the classroom. Everyone knows a well-nourished student is better able to focus, engage, and perform academically. And without these meals, many students would go without the energy they need to learn, making it more difficult to succeed in school.

Unfortunately, if funding continues to be reduced, we risk cutting these vital meal programs. Dayton Public Schools offer breakfast and lunch service free of charge because most of our students are socio disadvantaged. As you can imagine, this would have devastating consequences for students who rely on school meals as their primary source of nutrition. Many of these students will go without food - without school-provided meals, they would face hunger and all the associated challenges that come with it—difficulty concentrating, increased absenteeism, and even negative impacts on their overall health.

Ladies and gentlemen, school breakfast and lunch programs are not just an expense; they are an investment in our children's future. So cutting these services will disproportionately impact our most vulnerable students, and it will undermine the academic progress and well-being of our entire Dayton community.

I urge you to prioritize funding for these essential programs. No child should have to worry about where their next meal is coming from. Lawmakers, by supporting school breakfast and lunch services, we are ensuring that all students have the foundation they need to succeed, both in school and in life.

Can you commit to adding funds in the budget for improving the quality of our school food?