

HB 96 WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 05/12/2025

Name: Thurston Melson, Student At Meadowdale Career Technology Center, reading for Kameron Kirkpatrick and Tay'Jamar Riley, and Darion Pace-Anders

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: Youth Jobs and Work Study 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 youth jobs.**

Kameron Kirkpatrick (Co-Editor) -- The youth need more opportunities to work at a young age. I was racking in experience as early as thirteen years old, and my peers would love to do the same. Without learning fundamental skills that are considered basic or necessary in the workforce they will be a step behind some of their peers. As long as we make more opportunities for the youth to work then we at least put the offer out there for the youth to reject and or accept. Without these opportunities being available and advertised then we can't get jobs for the youth. Programs helping youth acquire jobs would be a great help. If we use some of our tax dollars to fund the programs then they can efficiently do their job of getting jobs for the youth. These dollars can cover expenses such as possible transportation and or even the wages that are paid during the shifts worked by these young people.

Tay'Jamar Riley – I hope to address youth employment. People need money to survive. Not having a job prevents these people from helping take care of their families. I believe this is happening because jobs are being replaced by robots. If this continues there will be more homeless people because there aren't any more jobs to apply for. To address this, we must create more jobs or positions for people to work. With taxpayer funds, we would buy equipment and hire people to get stuff done. If this happens, you will see a big difference in the neighborhoods and communities.

Darion Pace-Anders – I hope to address youth unemployment. Kids have fewer activities to do if unemployed, and no early career opportunities. I've heard about my friends struggling to get employment and it stresses them out. This problem is occurring because certain people are taking job positions that should be meant for younger audiences, and jobs don't want to take a chance on kids. The youth will have to wait till a certain age to get a job. This soon will spread more across the states. We must open up more positions for certain companies, and build job opportunities for the youth to explore early career options. I'd spend tax dollars to expand programs like YouthWorks to fund or create more youth unemployment programs made for the youth who struggle to receive applications. This program will allow high school students to be referred to certain companies that fit with their future careers. We will know if it's successful when jobs barely have room for applications. Will you help us decrease youth unemployment by adding more funds for youth jobs, work study, and apprenticeship programs?