

# HB 96 WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 05/13/2025

Name: Rylie Estes, Student At Belmont High School.

Are you representing: Yourself **Organization**

Organization (If Applicable): Dayton Public Schools, Belmont

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: Workforce Reductions in Education

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 keeping school staff.**

Good morning, respected members of the House, Senate, school administrators, and all those gathered here today to support school funding efforts. My name is Rylie Estes, I'm a junior at Belmont High School - A Dayton Public School.

Ladies and gentlemen, I stand before you to speak on a critical issue that affects not only our students but the dedicated educators who serve them. 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." Where do you propose these cuts will go first?

We have all seen in recent years schools become more and more overcrowded, with larger class sizes and fewer resources. Unfortunately, if funding continues to decrease, we are at risk of losing even more teachers. A reduction in the teacher workforce is not just a statistic to be taken lightly as it directly impacts the quality of education our students will receive.

Ladies and gentlemen, our teachers are the heart of any school. They shape minds, inspire futures, and often serve as mentors and counselors for students. However, with overcrowded classrooms, larger student-to-teacher ratios, and reduced budgets, teachers are stretched thin. If we don't invest in our educators, they won't be able to provide the personalized attention and support our students desperately need.

When teacher positions are cut because of lack of funding, the remaining staff members are expected to take on even more responsibilities, further contributing to burnout and the loss of passion and effectiveness in the classroom. Ladies and gentlemen, It creates a vicious cycle: fewer teachers, more students, and less support for those who need it most.

Please understand our students deserve better - our teachers deserve better! The future of our education system depends on ensuring that we have enough qualified educators in every classroom, especially in schools like ours that are already struggling with overcrowding.

I urge you to prioritize funding for our schools, so we can keep our classrooms staffed, our students engaged, and our teachers supported.

Thank you for your time and attention.