

Testimony for House Bill 96

Senate Finance Committee

May 27, 2025

Junius Smith

Chair Jerry Cirino, Vice Chair Brian Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Finance Committee of the Ohio Senate:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Junius Smith, and I am a parent of a student in Cincinnati Public Schools, Walnut Hills High School, Class of 2029. I am asking for the state budget to fully fund our public schools.

If the budget to public schools are cut, you are cutting opportunities for my son and his friends to meet their optimal potential. My son has been able to participate in a musical arts program, in which he is thriving. He has benefitted from the structure, confidence, and creativity needed to participate. Oftentimes, arts programs are among the first to be cut when budgets are decreased. This program, and the dozens (or even hundreds) others like it, enhance the educational experience and outcomes of students everywhere. The community as a whole will see the negative impacts if public schools are not able to sustain at their current funding levels.

Please fully fund all Ohio public schools to benefit Ohio students everywhere.

Thank you.

Junius Smith