



Testimony in Support of the Ohio Valley Youth Network Budget Earmark

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to request your support for the earmark included in the House-passed version of House Bill 110 of the 136th General Assembly, which provides:

*“Ohio Valley Youth Network – \$150,000 in FY2026 and \$150,000 in FY2027”*

*Appropriation Item: 200597 – Foundation Funding (earmark #38)*

*(Source: House Bill 110 – As Passed by the House, LSC Budget Document)*

This earmark is a critical investment in the Sycamore Center, a community anchor that serves thousands of children and teens across the Ohio Valley. Each week, 234 dedicated volunteers deliver 67 free daily enrichment programs and meals to 512 students and their families.

Our daily programming includes mentorship, career development, service learning, parenting classes, character education, civics, literacy, fine arts, performing arts, and self-defense. Sycamore serves a high percentage of under-resourced children and families, many of whom depend on our meals, mentorship, and structured activities as a consistent and safe refuge.

The students who participate in our programs are not only receiving support—they are giving back. Through community service initiatives, they are learning the value of leadership, responsibility, and purpose.

The impact of this funding is immediate and transformative. Your support ensures that Sycamore will continue to shape tomorrow’s leaders by providing a safe, nurturing environment filled with opportunity and meaningful connections to highly respected adult mentors. Most important, your support guarantees that no child is ever turned away due to lack of funds.

On behalf of the students, families, and volunteers of the Ohio Valley Youth Network, I respectfully urge your full support of this earmark. Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to the future of Ohio’s youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobbyjon Bauman".

Bobbyjon Bauman                      May 24, 2025  
President, Ohio Valley Youth Network  
Executive Director, Sycamore Youth Center  
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