

Deonte Slappy
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Junior Achievement of Eastern Ohio

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and member of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Deonte Slappy, and I am a student at East Liverpool High School in Columbiana County. I am here to ask the Senate to support Junior Achievement funding in House Bill 96 and tell you how investing in Junior Achievement can shape Ohio's future workforce

I want to thank Junior Achievement for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today about how their program has positively impacted my life. Junior Achievement or "JA" has been a tremendous and I couldn't be more thankful for the opportunities it has brought.

The opportunity I'm most excited for is getting to go to Georgia State University in Atlanta for five days to compete in the JA Titan Challenge against schools from across the country.

The JA Titan Challenge is a national competition for high school students, where we get to experience what it's like to be business CEOs. We will engage in decision-making, planning, and making a profit firsthand. I'm excited to meet and compete with other students and teachers from across the country, as well as business leaders who work with JA.

I am looking forward to traveling to Georgia, not only for the competition but also to explore a new state I haven't visited before. I know I will gain valuable experiences, especially since I will be there with my partner, Hunter, and my teacher, Mr. Nizer, who are both here today. I am truly grateful for this opportunity provided by Junior Achievement. Our Junior Achievement program will also let you know how our team performs in the Titan Challenge!

The funding for JA in HB 96 is critical to help maintain the impact of JA to other students like me across the state. These opportunities have opened a whole new world of career possibilities and potential

When I first learned about JA, I wasn't sure if I could or wanted to participate. However, Mr. Nizer taught me entrepreneurial skills and showed me that I can build my own company. Now, I am fully invested in it, and the experience has been tremendous.

I fully support Junior Achievement and recommend other students participate too so they can acquire different skills for their future success and learn about career paths they never thought they could do before. The opportunities have been very beneficial not only now but for the future and I couldn't be anymore thankful for participating in Junior Achievement through my school.

Thank you for supporting Junior Achievement and for allowing me to speak today.