

Senate Finance Committee
Proponent Testimony on HB 96
Priya Gajmier
May 29, 2025

Thank you, Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, for the opportunity to testify today. I am here to express my strong support for including funding for Senate Bill 13, the Foster-to-College Scholarship Program, in House Bill 96.

My name is Priya Gajmier, I'm 10 years old, and I am about to finish 4th grade at East Columbus Elementary School.

Ironically, I live in Representative Jarrell's District with my Foster parents, Maggie and Austin but I don't really know him too well. I just met him today with one of my favorite advocates, Ms. Kisha. She told us about House Bill 25 the last time I visited.

I am a proud member of the Butanese-Nepali refugee community, although I myself was born in the United States.

Sadly, both of my parents died a little more than a year apart, in 2023 and 2024. And that is when I became a part of the foster care community.

I am a girl with many dreams, an infectious smile, and a pretty cool personality. One day I'd like to be Miss Ohio's outstanding teen.

My biggest dream is to be a nurse. There are so many things about being a nurse that are really important.

For example:

- Knowing what to do when a kid passes out
- Taking blood
- Giving shots
- Caring for others

I realize I have a lot to learn, and I want to be able to go to college to learn about all these things.

Senate Bill 13 will ensure I can afford the education needed to be a nurse.