

Interested Party Testimony for House Bill 96 (Am. Sub. H. B. No. 96)
Senate Finance Committee
Thursday, May 29

Vivian Wynia, Rising sixth grader
Big Walnut Local Schools

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, and members of the Finance Committee of the Ohio Senate: Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Vivian Wynia. Last week, I finished fifth grade at Big Walnut Intermediate School. I guess that makes me a sixth grader.

I'm really upset that people are trying to steal money from students to build a sports stadium that rich people can already afford to build themselves. That's not what government is for.

If we lose our money, how are we going to pay for things that teachers need to teach? Teachers already have to ask us to donate supplies.

A lot of kids in Big Walnut need new Chromebooks. I had to use a computer with a broken mousepad all year.

Even though our sixth grade is at the middle school now, the intermediate school was still really full, and I think we're going to need some new school buildings very soon. How would we pay for them if they built that stadium instead of schools for kids?

I'm just a sixth grader. But I've protested in the rain, sat through long community and school board meetings, and now I'm here talking to you. All my effort makes me feel like I'm trying harder to fight for public education than the adults who are supposed to be in charge, like Senator Brenner, Representative Lear, and the Big Walnut board and district people.

You should think about it this way: Money for public education funds my future. Defunding education dismantles the future of every kid in Ohio. I wish more leaders were honest and told kids about what's happening because maybe they'd get involved like me and tell Republicans to keep their hands off the funding for my education.

Thank you.