



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**Senate Finance Committee, House Bill 96**  
**Tim Hilk, President & CEO, YMCA of Greater Cleveland**  
**May 30, 2025**

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 96. My name is Tim Hilk, and I am the President & CEO of the YMCA of Greater Cleveland.

The YMCA of Greater Cleveland is a legacy organization that has served the needs of communities across Northeast Ohio since our founding in 1854. As a leader in holistic well-being, the YMCA enhances quality of life through our comprehensive programs and services. Everyone knows the Y for our summer camps, swimming lessons, and as a safe place to gather as community, but we are so much more.

In 1993, we launched Y-Haven, an evidence-based addiction treatment facility for men and women who are experiencing homelessness, re-entering the community from incarceration, or recovering from Opioid Use Disorder. With 210 beds available, Y-Haven provides addiction treatment outcomes that are nearly three times the national average – 71% of participants complete treatment, 92% engage in post-residency services, and 70% indicate increased family and social supports. We are also proud to report a 0% recidivism rate in 2024.

Incorporating our proven model of success at Y-Haven, we are bringing professional counseling, support groups, and educational workshops on mental health topics into our eleven YMCA facilities across NE Ohio. We are transforming our branches into dedicated “Mental Wellness” hubs.

This work aligns with our mission of delivering programs to build the spirit, mind, and body for all, but it is also rooted in research and community input. In collaboration with Case Western Reserve University’s Community Innovation Network, we surveyed our members, explored local community assets, and designed a program to integrate our model of mental health services into our facilities.

Based on this research, we hired a behavioral health manager to oversee and implement a pilot program at two of our eleven branches. This licensed social worker is providing professional counseling and group training sessions addressing grief and loss, substance use recovery, and loneliness to YMCA members and the broader community. The response to these services has been overwhelmingly positive, and we hope to expand this program to all our branches across Northeast Ohio.

This work was made possible as a result of private foundation and donor support. While the wellness hubs are intended to be self-sustaining once fully operational, we ask the committee to consider supporting an appropriation of \$350,000 each fiscal year to support build out of this programming.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.