

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Finance Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Mackenzie Doyle and I am a resident of Cincinnati, OH and the Justice Promoter for the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 96 as the House passed it.

As a young adult who is recently married, I am concerned about the implications that this budget has for future generations in this state for my children and my neighbors' children. First of all, as someone who might be having children in a few years, I know myself and many other women across our state and country are in desperate need of affordable childcare and child care workers are in desperate need of a living wage. Therefore, I urge you on behalf of many women across our state to put Governor DeWine's childcare funding and the Child Tax Credit back into the state's budget.

Moreover, too many of our neighbors are struggling with high costs of living - rent, food, and medical bills have only increased while salaries have largely stagnated. In many places across the state, there are affordable housing shortages and the failure of a trickle down housing market which leaves people in dilapidated housing that they cannot afford to fix. Thus, I urge you to maintain the Ohio Housing Trust Fund rather than putting the onus on the counties (Sections 319.63, 174.02, 317.36). Additionally, the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) would not be able to continue its new homeless prevention program, which is supported by the Ohio Housing Trust Fund. For Sec. 5163.04, I also urge you to change the language from we will terminate Medicaid expansion Group VII to we **may** if federal funding decreases. As it is written in HB 96, it will leave 770,000 Ohioans without health care coverage and the termination plan does nothing to help people afford privatized coverage. I also urge you to remove language in Section 126.10 that will allow the state government to cut funding if the federal government does. It is vague and will likely have wide ranging impacts on those who already are barely surviving. Additionally, the federal administration has shown little regard for those who are suffering and if the state also backs out, who will support people?

Lastly, I want to live in a state where my children have access to a thriving public library and public school system. While some politicians like Speaker Huffman want to defund public schools while giving billionaires like the Haslan family \$600 million dollars in taxpayer money to build a stadium for a football team (Sections 123.28, 123.281, 715.016), other politicians along with subject matter experts have worked together over years to create the Fair School Funding Plan. To be fully funded based on statistics from the Fair School Funding Plan from 2021, schools would need \$666 million. The proposed budget only gives them about \$226 million. So if we didn't fund the Browns stadium we could fully fund public schools with an additional \$440 million dollars and have money left over to spare on other things like child care, housing, and health care - things that Ohioans need. Moreover, close to a \$1 billion of taxpayer money has gone to school vouchers and now ESFs with little oversight about who gets those funds, all in the name of school choice. Yet, what choice is it if parents have no option but to send their children to public schools that haven't been fully funded? I urge you to remove Educational

Savings Accounts from the state budget unless there is some accountability in place and income level restriction. And on behalf of the 90% of Ohio's students who are in public schools, I urge you to help restore the full, bipartisan Fair School Funding Plan and the updated inputs. Finally, I urge you to restore the Public Library funding to 1.7% of state revenue rather than letting the General Assembly budget at will (131.51, Section 387.20). This will make it an extreme challenge for libraries to know how to budget each month depending on the will of the General Assembly. Libraries are an enormous public good that help our children read, provide a safe space after school, computer access, job training, and so much more. I loved going to my library as a child and believe our communities would be much worse off without a fully funded library system.

Respectfully, all of our children and families deserve to thrive in our state, and the budget cuts that House Bill 96 proposes will harm Ohioans rather than help those of us who are barely surviving. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill unless you make drastic changes that will allow all Ohioans to thrive. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

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