

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Good afternoon, my name is Jasmine Russell and I am the Agricultural Educator and FFA Advisor at Claymont High School in Tuscarawas County. I am about to wrap up year three as an Agricultural Educator and FFA Advisor. I am writing on behalf of HB 96, 5th Quarter funding for Agricultural Educators here in Ohio. Currently, HB 96 is included in the state budget for \$600,000. We, as Agricultural Educators would like to have that amount increased to \$1.2 million each year, over the next two years.

This funding would be dedicated to helping support the countless hours that over 500 Agricultural Educators within the state spend outside of the typical classroom day with their nearly 30,000 students. As an agricultural educator myself, I can confidently say that we spend even more time outside of the classroom than we do inside of the classroom. The majority of our FFA activities, as well as Leadership/Career Development Events take place outside of the typical school day. I have had the opportunity to work with hundreds of students and I have seen the benefits of these after school programs firsthand.

From Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE's), which allow students to engage in work-based learning that helps students to gain real world experiences, to Career Development Events (CDE's), which allow students to develop skills they can apply to future careers- these outside of school hours are pertinent for the growth and success of these future leaders. The 5th Quarter funding ensures that all Agricultural Educators are compensated for their time spent after school at all of these events. Without these events and the Fifth Quarter funding, many students would not be in the careers they are, be as successful, or have established businesses of their own.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jasmine Russell