



Ohio Senate Finance Committee

Jessica Hartley, 1N5

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Chairman Cirino, Vice Chairman Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill (HB) 96. My name is Jessica Hartley, and I am the development manager with 1N5. Our executive director, Nancy Eigel-Miller, could not be here today, so I am here to share our story and mission with you.

On July 28, 2008, Nancy lost her husband, Jim, to suicide.

In the aftermath of that profound loss, she and her two daughters chose to turn their grief into action. They founded 1N5, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing mental health education and suicide prevention across Ohio. Our name, 1N5, reflects an urgent reality: one in five people live with a mental health condition, and as many as one in three youth experience similar struggles. As a certified prevention program provider using state-approved and evidence-based curriculum, 1N5 works with over 300 public and private schools in 11 counties, helping provide more than 240,000 students with the tools to build resilience and a stronger sense of connection.

Our partner schools rely on us to help fulfill three state laws¹ that (1) require schools to instruct students in suicide awareness and prevention, (2) train teachers in youth suicide awareness and prevention, and (3) train athletic coaches in student mental health – all on an ongoing basis. Because schools often lack qualified staff and

¹ Ohio Revised Code 3313.5318, 3313.60, and 3319.073.

available time to complete this training, 1N5 partners with them to ensure their students receive this essential education – all in person, throughout the school year, and at virtually no cost to schools.

The Senate budget proposal makes several meaningful improvements for youth mental health, including:

- prohibiting the use of cell phones during the instructional day;
- funding the 9-8-8 Suicide Crisis and Response hotline; and
- adding community mental health prevention providers as community partners with which schools can develop their spending plans.

For the first time, our organization received funding² from the state in January of 2025, which is helping us expand into 50 new schools and reach 40,000 new students. The House-passed version of HB 96 maintains this critical funding at a reduced level in fiscal year 2026 and 2027.³ Unfortunately, this funding was eliminated in the Senate version of HB 96.

We urge you to restore this much-needed funding to support the mental health and wellness of Ohio's students.

This support will help our team to expand into 70 new schools, supporting 60,000 new students and their teachers, including in rural and Appalachian areas of the state, which have some of the highest suicide rates in the state. It also will help us to train and certify additional program managers and educators to meet the surging demand for our programming.

Investments in prevention matter, and schools are on the front lines of this urgent issue. These initiatives reduce the long-term costs of crisis intervention and, most importantly, save lives. By equipping students with the knowledge and tools to support their mental well-being, we

² Section 6 of Senate Bill 54 of the 135th General Assembly.

³ Section 337.117 of House Bill 96. MHACD31. GRF ALI 336519, Community Projects.

are fostering safer, healthier school environments where every student can thrive—both in the classroom and as they enter the workforce.

Chairman Cirino and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.