



**Senate Finance Committee
House Bill 96
Interested Party Testimony
June 5, 2025**

My name is Chris White, Trustee of the Lorain Public Library System, a tenth year high school social studies educator in the Lorain City School District, and resident of Lorain, Ohio. Learning and education are both passions of mine. I believe that the availability and acquisition of knowledge is a human right and necessity for society to progress as a whole, which is why I've chosen to spend my life the way I have.

This reason is also why I and many other educators and library patrons are concerned with the language currently in the proposed budget resolution. As it stands and repeated many times throughout, this budget proposes what in effect would be a reduction in the availability of knowledge to the people of Ohio. This budget will:

- a. Reduce public library funding overall.
- b. Force library funding from a percentage of the General Revenue Fund to a line item, making funding more vulnerable.
- c. Remove the option for replacement levies for public schools and libraries, effectively increasing the challenge for these institutions to receive even local funding.
- d. An increase to the school voucher program to the detriment of students in public schools.
- e. Will award high performing schools with more funding, which will only serve to increase the inequality of funding between local districts and disadvantage those who need the most support and their access to learning materials.

The more access to information a people has, the better and more secure democracy they also have. Do not endanger our future. Fund our essential public educational services.