



June 4, 2025

Ohio Statehouse  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman Cirino, Ranking Member Hicks–Hudson, and Senate Finance Committee Members:

My name is Jennifer Howard, and I am the Executive Director of Teach For America in Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to deliver testimony on H.B. 96, the proposed state operating budget for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027.

Teach For America (TFA) is a national teacher preparation and leadership development program. Over the past 13 years, we have played a critical role in Ohio's educational ecosystem, addressing the need for teacher and leadership talent in K–12 schools by sourcing, matching, developing, and retaining high-impact talent. Locally, **TFA has grown to a network of approximately 1,200 corps members and alumni**, including more than 200 new teachers during the last two budget cycles. This growth coincides with a period of steep decline in the number of teachers in Ohio, with over 16,000 teachers leaving the profession since 2020 and a sharp reduction in the number of newly licensed teachers in the state over the past decade<sup>1</sup>. We are deeply grateful for the support of Governor DeWine and the Legislature, as it has been instrumental in our ability to operate in the state. This support enables us to offer our network of corps members and alumni professional development and continuing education, including the **400 educators and 115 school administrators** actively working in Ohio schools.

Teach For America was included in Governor DeWine's Operating Budget Proposal, as well as H.B. 96. However, the Senate's Sub. H.B. No. 96 removed this vital financial support. The need for this funding is not just important, it's urgent. We implore you to continue the state's history of investment in TFA by supporting the amendment to restore funding.

Teach For America's programs are designed to **build transformational relationships between students and teachers**, enriching students' lives and supporting Teach For America teachers, tutors, alumni educators, and school leaders throughout mission-driven, future-shaping careers. Purpose and impact are at the heart of what we do at Teach For America—we provide a community with a shared vision and belief in every child. We utilize **evidence-based tools, resources, and support, enabling our network to** develop and execute solutions tailored to the needs of students and families.

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<sup>1</sup> Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. (2022). Educator License Report and Teacher Workforce Data.

**One Day, all children will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education.**

We place our corps members in **public K-12 districts and charter schools in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Dayton**. While our new members may begin their teaching journey in the largest cities in the state, as alumni, they live and work in urban and rural communities across the entire state. Sixty percent of our alumni work full-time in education, in **public, private, and parochial schools, universities, or nonprofit organizations statewide**. Many alumni are transformative leaders in their communities, which in turn positively impacts the whole system.

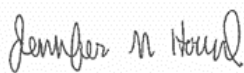
Some examples include:

- The leaders of the largest district, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, and one of the largest charter networks, Breakthrough Public Schools, in the Cleveland area
- Administrators and teachers at innovative private schools like the Greater Dayton School in Dayton and the Urban Community School in Cleveland
- Leaders and teachers at parochial schools, including Romero Academy and Xavier Jesuit Academy in Cincinnati

In addition to our work as a strategic talent partner to schools, we are actively working to address academic gaps and innovate around the future of learning. We are expanding our high-dosage tutoring program in Dayton and Columbus to support students in early literacy and middle-grade math. In partnership with TFA's National Research & Development Lab, we are participating in research on meaningful and personalized learning pathways, developing innovative approaches to address student absenteeism, providing students with opportunities for career exploration, and facilitating student- and teacher-led Hackathons.

The state's investment is vital to the continuation of our successful program, which has a proven track record of positive impact in the schools where our corps members and alumni serve. We match the state's investment with private funding, and our scale and impact would not be possible without your support. I would be happy to answer any questions about our program.

Sincerely,



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Teach For America Ohio  
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