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The mission of Shoes and Clothes for Kids is to break barriers to education by providing new shoes, clothes, and school supplies to students in need.

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**Senate Health Committee
Substitute House Bill 96
Monica Lloyd, Executive Director
Shoes and Clothes for Kids
May 13, 2025**

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Substitute House Bill 96. My name is Monica Lloyd, and I am the Executive Director of Shoes and Clothes for Kids (known as SC4K). Founded in 1969 as Shoes for Kids, 2025 marks our nonprofit's 56th year of service to the Greater Cleveland community. We currently partner with schools and community organizations in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties, and plan to complement the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's footprint by expanding our services to the additional counties they serve, which are Ashland, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, and Richland.

The mission of SC4K is to break barriers to school attendance by providing new shoes, clothes, and school supplies to students in need. In 2024, SC4K provided 315,655 new items with a total value of 2.7 million dollars to 28,548 students. We accomplished all of this with a budget of just \$1.3 million, including vital support from the State of Ohio

I joined SC4K 15 years ago to manage the organization's programs, service delivery, and volunteers. With a background in finance and program operations, I helped increase SC4K's distribution partner network, double the volunteer corps, and added the Teacher Resource Center program, which today serves thousands of teachers with new supplies each year.

I oversaw the Classroom Guarantee Program and its expansion, which was funded by the State to help positively impact student attendance by providing entire classrooms of students with necessities such as shoes, clothes, and school supplies. This program helped improve attendance by as much as 24%.

In 2020, SC4K received an invitation and opportunity to become an anchor partner in the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's innovative and new Community Resource Center. Fueled by our move to the Community Resource Center in late 2023, SC4K added our Direct Service Program last year to provide families facing economic hardship with access to our 5,000 square foot Free Store, where they can receive new shoes, clothes, and school supplies for their children. In our inaugural year, we served 668 families and 1,641 students, providing a total of 19,930 new items. This "one-stop shop" model has delivered measurable benefits to the community by



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bringing together services that address multiple challenges families face while maximizing impact per dollar.

With SC4K and partners like the Food Bank, MetroHealth, Legal Aid, Diaper Bank, Digital C, College Now, Cuyahoga Community College, CHN Housing, Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, Towards Employment, United Way, MAGNET, Family Connections, Ohio Means Jobs, and Cuyahoga County Department of Health and Human Services working side by side, we reduce duplication, streamline service delivery, and make every investment go further.

In the past nine years, we've amplified our services and program impact, serving thousands of students by supplying them with the tools they need to improve their school attendance and achieve better academic outcomes. **We are asking you to continue and increase your support for our programs through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) allocation that was included in the last operating budget, which would allocate \$250,000 per year.**

I appreciate your time today. I encourage your support of our request which would use TANF dollars to continue the expansion of our Direct Service Program at the Community Resource Center that can help kids get to school, stay in school, and have a better chance of a successful life. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions.