

HB 96 WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 05/12/2025

Name: Da'Markus Ward, Student At Meadowdale Career Technology Center, reading for Qaden Dean

Are you representing: Yourself **Organization**

Organization (If Applicable): Dayton Public Schools

Position/Title: Student

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? **Yes**

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): House Bill 96

Specific Issue: Youth Mental Health Funding

Are you testifying as a: **Interested Party**

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? **Yes**

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? **1-2 minutes**

Please provide a brief statement on your position: **The following testimony advocates for more funding for youth addiction services.**

QD4: We're Losing Too Many to Overdoses

I really want the representative to address the problem of drug abuse. Drug abuse has been a problem for decades. I even have family members who have dealt with this serious problem. There are young people who are even in high school who are dealing with drug addiction and drug abuse as we speak. There are many deaths involving overdoses which deal with drug abuse. I mean death is already serious so if it is from something that is like drug abuse it should show that it is serious enough.

People who have drug problems will do anything for it means paying extreme amounts for it even if they're at their lowest. This could also affect other people's lives who are around them which can involve death. This matters to me because like I said before I have family members who have dealt with drug abuse and I've lost someone to a drug addiction. I believe we should try our hardest to make sure we keep drugs off the streets and instead of sending people to jail because of it we should send people to therapy to help them conquer it to the best of their ability. This problem is connected to others because I know others have dealt with losing loved ones from abuse.

Some say this is part of the government's plan to get rid of us. I believe the government should take this responsibility because I really

believe they are the ones who put this out into the world. We've already seen some accountability like the 2,000 lawsuits the US has launched against drug companies that pushed Oxy and other opioids into our neighborhoods (Kristen Gelineau). However, settlement money alone won't make up for the 400,000 people lost to addiction over two decades (Claire Galofaro and Francis D'Emilio)

Addressing addiction will cost billions at least to get started on solving this problem. If we make sure to get every drug addict some help we could possibly get a start on solving this issue. I believe it's not mentioned enough because no one cares to solve this problem. We can't solve this on our own because we don't have enough funds to even get started. We need to focus on the drugs that are causing the most harm. Fentanyl was responsible for 46 percent of the 140,000 overdose deaths reported in 2020 (Aryana Noroozi)

I need the representatives to help out with the funds to help us get started. They have the power to fund more money to this worldly issue. This is reasonable because there are more people dealing with this issue than we think. If we do nothing this problem will continue to grow and reach other people. If we succeed, many people who were affected by this problem will be better and happier along with their families. How do you believe we could possibly fix this problem? Would you be willing to increase funds to support people getting off drugs?

