

HB 96 WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 05/12/2025

Name: Kevin Colter, Student At Meadowdale Career Technology Center

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: Funding to Address Plastic Pollution

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 to address the rampant plastic pollution in our air and water.**

KC7: We Must Address Plastic Pollution

Dear Representatives, I am writing to express my concern about the increasing issue of plastic waste in our environment. Over the past few years, the amount of plastic pollution has escalated to alarming levels, and it is having a devastating impact on our ecosystems. Plastic waste is filling our oceans, harming marine life, and even entering the food chain, posing a risk to human health. While there have been some efforts to address this issue, such as banning plastic bags in certain regions, the problem continues to grow.

Each square mile of our ocean holds at least 46,000 pieces of plastic ([U.N. Environment Program](#)). Plastic kills hundreds of thousands of sea lions, dolphins, whales, and other marine life, and millions of sea birds each year die in our trash ([L.A. Times](#)). That was in 2006. Fast forward today, and entire species are dying out from the levels of CO₂ and pollution in the oceans ([Pulitzer Center](#))

One of the major contributing factors is the widespread use of single-use plastics, which are often not recycled and end up in landfills or waterways. Despite advances in recycling technology, the majority of plastic produced still does not get properly disposed of or reused. We urgently need a comprehensive, nationwide strategy to reduce plastic consumption and improve waste management systems.

I urge the government to consider stricter regulations on plastic production and to encourage companies to use alternative materials that are biodegradable or easier to recycle. A tax on single-use plastic products could incentivize businesses to adopt more sustainable practices. Additionally, funding for research into plastic alternatives and recycling technologies could help accelerate solutions.

Public awareness campaigns are also essential. Educating citizens about the environmental impact of plastic pollution and promoting reusable options will foster more responsible consumer behavior. Local governments could also introduce more convenient and accessible recycling programs, making it easier for people to participate in the effort.

The Pulitzer Center supported a project in Houston to teach and empower people to track pollution in their neighborhood (Alejandra Martinez). We can follow the example of Naomi Cambridge, a 21-year old in Barbados who volunteered to teach students in her town about how to solve environmental problems around them (Sara Miller Llana, Elizabeth Haynes) Imagine creating a youth jobs program where students educate their communities on how to test for pollutants, how to stay safe in chemical events, and how to speak up about health hazards. To the legislators, can you please propose laws and dedicate funds in the budget to protect our planet from plastic pollution? Will you include more support for programs that help people deal with pollution in their communities?