

April 25, 2023

Senate Finance Committee

Ohio Statehouse
1 Capital Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, Senator Brenner, and other distinguished members of the Senate:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 33 requesting the Senate Finance Committee support \$3 million in funding in the FY 24 -25 Ohio operating budget to expand workforce development, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship programming to Ohio students.

*“The JA Inspire to Hire event exposed our students to career opportunities that **otherwise they would have never got a chance to experience.**” - Garry Tausch, Principal for Louisville High School*

*“JA Inspire is an incredible opportunity to interact with the young people of the region. The students we met at the event were inquisitive, energetic, and clearly inspired. For students and employers alike, **JA Inspire is sure to become one of the most anticipated career exploration events in the state of Ohio.**” - Siera Marth-May, Richland Community Foundation*


When I was in second grade, a Junior Achievement volunteer came to my classroom and greatly expanded my understanding of the world around me with a program called *JA Our Community*. I can vividly recall the map on which we facilitated our activities – how the volunteer used it to teach us about a variety careers and jobs in the community and even where my parents stored the money they earned from their jobs so they could afford that “brand new Nintendo 64” I wanted for Christmas.

That day was significant: it my first glimpse at career exploration, and like Mr. Tausch mentioned above, it would not have happened without Junior Achievement joining us in the classroom that day.

23 years later, I, along with my colleagues from Junior Achievement are continually reshaping and enhancing the workforce conversation with maximized concerted efforts surrounding our work and career readiness programming. Most notably and what is referenced above is *JA Inspire to Hire* – a career exploration experience that not only gives our local partners the opportunity to connect with a pipeline of talent for their future workforce, but also presents our participating students with a hands-on, interactive, and *inspirational* event -- the likes of which they have never before seen.

There is a common but potent thread that cascades itself through my experience in second grade and the experiences I helped to create through *JA Inspire to Hire*: a strong workforce and potent career readiness skills *begin* with the students; it does not end with them. And based on my entire life’s experience through this point, Junior Achievement is the vital heartbeat in these efforts.

Thank you for your attention and time. We believe in the students.



Sincerely,

Tyler Adams



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