

Good afternoon,

I am unfortunately unable to attend the hearing dates scheduled for testimonies regarding House Bill 9. I am a citizen of the small town of Delphos, Ohio, and am aware of the impending vote regarding EdChoice. I want you to please vote in favor of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment. Delphos is a town of population around 7,500 people, which has both a public and parochial school, both schools having grades K-12, which already puts a financial burden on our state funding, due to accounting for all students in our district, regardless of attending the public school or not. With the inclusion of the private school students in the designation of our school's state funds, it appears that we live in a "rich" community, which couldn't be further from the truth. Most of the area schools of our population, only have parochial grades of K-6 or K-8, and then transition to a public school. Passing the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment would only further devastate our dwindling financial situation and would force us to make even more cuts to the curriculum that is currently offered. This is a travesty to all our of children that we want to see succeed in life after high school. We would basically only be able to offer the courses that are state required. By making these cuts, we will also continue to lose students to open enrollment, which in turn, continues to increase our expenses, while losing revenue. Please, please, please support the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment. We are fighting to keep our small town public school afloat, let alone, attempting to let it flourish to give our students the best possible education they can have. Please vote in favor of the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment.

Thankfully,

Audra K Gunter