



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL



1285 Main Street - Hamilton, Ohio 45013-1621

Kevin Jud, Pastor
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To Whom It May Concern,

Do you quickly think politics when you hear the words voucher, school choice, or state scholarship? I'm hard pressed to see the issue of granting families a choice in education as a partisan issue. Is not freedom a core value in this nation? What about a pursuit of happiness? What about the right to avoid participation in activities that are considered a conflict of conscience?

With the increased polarization of ideas in our country, parents long for educational options that align with their values and preferences. With increased segregation within school districts, minorities and the impoverished desire an option outside of the ones assigned to their addresses. With monopolies proving to give customers an inferior product, the market of education demands competition as a way of iron sharpening iron.

As a principal of a building with over 75% of its student body on EdChoice scholarship, I beg you not to put these students in jeopardy. There is a seemingly endless array of student success stories but I would like to share what may not be as readily apparent; scholarships help the whole family and in turn, the community. School officials and fellow school families become a support network that encourages the entire family to succeed. We serve as job references, we launch fundraisers in the face of trials, we provide classes on parenting, financial responsibility, and grief, we function as surrogate parents at daddy/daughter dances, we give unlimited access to our food pantry, and we offer a constant in the midst of the uncertainties of life.

If these concepts resonate with you, I ask that you protect the much needed expansion that was announced in November. It will only stand to improve the already successful EdChoice scholarship programs in this great state of Ohio. Thank you for your advocacy for families looking to give their children equal opportunity in education.

Lukas Bickel, principal