

I am unable to make it to Columbus tomorrow but want to express my feelings and explain how this delay is affecting my family. There are MANY factors that come into play for my family. Where my home is located, is between 3 different public schools. When I purchased my home it was a Milford, Ohio address and I did not have children at the time. I assumed my future children would attend Milford Exempted schools which is 1.2 miles from my home. We are also just 1 mile away from West Clermont public school. Come to find out, we are actually in Clermont Northeastern school district which is over 15 miles away in the total opposite direction of everything we do. When researching the school, we found out from parents, the internet, the report cards that CNE was a struggling school. Very poor academics and not many opportunities. We looked into open enrollment to Milford but was told there wasn't a guarantee our children would be accepted there each year or if open enrollment would always be available. We both work very hard and are considered middle class. On paper it looks like we make enough to pay for private school but in reality we struggle. My husband works for Ford Motor Co and each year is laid off for weeks at a time. I too worked at Ford and when the Batavia plant shut down, I lost my job. We had to make major lifestyle changes when I lost that income. I now work for Mercy Hospital. We have lived in our home in CNE school district since 2007. We are forced to pay a school tax to the public school that comes out of each of our paychecks each week. The state also gives money to CNE per student. My son suffers from anxiety and OCD. He attends St. Veronica and the small class size and very structured education is helpful to him. Since he attends St. Veronica, CNE has deemed it impractical to provide bussing for him. Even though we are forced to pay school taxes, property taxes and the state give CNE money, they can deem it impractical to give him bussing. That in turn causes us to pay onto of his tuition extra everyday and every week for latchkey, a babysitter for before and after school. We have been forced to put him in St. V because our public school is a failing school. The opportunity at CNE is not the same as St. V. The anxiety every year of us being able to afford St. V has been very wearing on him and his OCD and anxiety. We are killing our selves to keep him there because it is emotionally and mentally stressful on him and could be damaging to switch him. But, we don't know how much longer we can do it. My daughter is currently at CNE. We can not afford for both kids to go to St. V but we can tell you first hand her education is no where near what his has been. She is being punished because we can not afford private school for both. Again, on paper you guys say we can. I'm here to tell you the low income guidelines that you are putting in place are still not enough. To have both kids at St. V we will pay over \$13,000 a year. That is just for tuition and latchkey. We have to pay for upkeep on vehicles to get them to and from school EVERYDAY because CNE refuses to transport our kids. The gas money, the cut hours, the money we have to pay for band, sports, school play, any extracurricular. We literally can not let our son sign up for the school play because it's all just too expensive. My daughter comes home from CNE with one sheet of homework for the entire week. She struggles in Math and Reading. St. V offers reading and math lab for extra help and CNE does not offer that extra help. CNE does not offer Spanish for second graders and St. V does. The superintendent has been very rude and disrespectful and acts like our family is a burden on him because we are located so far from his schools. I have asked him to release my home from the district and assign up to Milford Exempted and he said that's not how it works. Everyone says

they care about our children's education but I will tell you for the past 7 years the educators and people who make decisions have not put our children's best interest for anything. It is all about the mighty dollar. I went to a hearing in Columbus because West Clermont drives past my house each day full of students from St. V. They actually took my son to and from school for one year. Then they kicked him off because we were not from West Clermont and West Clermont decided they didn't want any non district students on their bus. CNE was supposed to give WC the money the state gave them for transportation but they did not. WC got upset and decided to take it out on my son and would not let him ride with his friends. We have been discriminated against since that happened. When this EdChoice opportunity happened we jumped on it. I emailed the EdChoice page and asked questions and was told to apply asap first come first serve. I took my daughter to the open house and applied for my two kids to go to St. V next year, paid over \$500.00 for the registration, got medical forms, birth certificates, showed proof of address etc. We got accepted to St. V and the principal was ready to apply on February 1, 2020 to get my kids the best opportunity to get a scholarship. We were made to feel like this is the answer to our prayers. God has given us this opportunity because of all the hell we have had to go thru. All for what? To give our kids the best chance at life. My children are biracial and we have showed them how you have to work for things in life. We both grew up in public schools and did not have the support and push to stay in college. Our parents could not afford it either and we had to pick work over college. I do not want this for our kids. I want them to get the best education and go to college. Please do not take this scholarship away from us. Help us, help our kids. They are respectful, hard working and loving kids. My daughter is so excited to go to St. V with her big brother. He suffers from separation anxiety not having her with him in the same building. Do not look at income. Working people have bills and hardships that you do not see by looking at their income. We can not afford to sell our home and move elsewhere because our home is so old, in order to sell we have to update so much. Again, we can not afford it. Our basement flooded last summer and we can not afford to fix it. Our windows need replaced, our front and back doors need replaced. We need a total update and we can not afford it. Life is expensive and we work hard. Our children deserve the best education. They should not be forced to attend CNE which is a failing school. Do not take them off the list. Look at their grades from every year in the past. D's and F's are not acceptable. Please, please hear me out. Help my family. Please.

Thank you,  
Stacie Cumberland