

Hi, I am unable to attend the hearing but would like to make a statement as to why EdChoice is important to my family.

I am a single mother of two daughters, ages 11 and 13. This year was their first year attending private school in the Catholic school system in our area, with the help of an EdChoice scholarship. We live in Lima, Ohio. The crime rate in Lima, including violent crime, is double the United States average for cities of all populations and sizes. I not only was unhappy with the education my daughters were receiving in the city school district in Lima, but I feared for their safety. My 11 year old, while in the 5th grade, could not use the restroom in her school without fear of being “jumped” by classmates because they would film these fights and post them on social media for “likes” and “views”. I am talking about 5th graders, who are on average 10-11 years old. My oldest daughter was assaulted by an adult woman who is the mother of a former classmate during my daughter’s last year of attending city schools while she was walking home from school alone. The school handled her assault poorly and recommended I enroll my children in another school system in the area if I was unhappy with how they handle things. It was infuriating to feel so powerless. Then, I found out about EdChoice scholarships and everything changed. My daughters have THRIVED while attending private school. They finally have homework nightly, and my daughters’ grades are reflecting their being challenged. At city schools I was told students don’t get assigned homework because the majority of students won’t do it, so they don’t bother. I can now go to work and feel confident that my daughters are safe and in an environment conducive to their education and development. None of this would be possible if it weren’t for EdChoice. Lima City Schools is content with failing, and they make no attempt at bettering their environment because there is no accountability for them. They know there will always be students sent there. So please, help people escape the dim future that is attending a place like Lima City Schools and protect parent’s ability to choose by saving EdChoice.

Thank you for your time.
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