

Good morning,

My name is Jennifer Roberts and I am the mother of a 7th grade autistic child enrolled in West Carrollton City Schools. I would like to tell you why my daughter needs access to the EdChoice grant. I have lived in West Carrollton my entire life, my parents live 5 minutes away from me, and I do not want to move out of my home. West Carrollton City Schools is failing and I do not mean that based on the state grade card. I mean that in the sense that they are failing these kids by not educating them. My daughter has had numerous struggles with school and while having a confirmed diagnosis of autism, she has not been given a 504/IEP plan. I have fought the district for months to try to get the help my daughter needs and gotten nowhere. She seeks counseling outside of school to help her combat the bullying she experiences from students and even the teachers. My daughter refuses to go to school almost every day because she does not feel safe and supported in her environment. She cannot learn here. In the past, I have looked at private schools, but I am not financially able to afford to send her to one. I do not meet the low income guidelines, but I do not have an extra \$5,000/year to pay for my daughter's tuition. I am a single mother who makes approximately \$48,000.00 a year, but when you look at a mortgage payment, car, and bills, I'm not sure how to afford the additional expense. With the passing of EdChoice and making it available for failing districts, this gives my daughter the ability to go get an education at a school who will support her growth. I know the districts are complaining about the cost of sending children elsewhere, but they are not taking care of the kids in their schools, and this is why we as the parents want our children to be moved. We want better for our kids like any parents do. I do not want my daughter in a school where drugs/alcohol are being sold and the administration is doing nothing to stop it. I want her in an environment where she can learn and be a productive member of society. Without this, I will more than likely be forced to move to another city/state and look for a new job or begin working a second job in order to pay for my daughter's tuition. Many others in the area have already done the same thing and taken their children out of West Carrollton City schools. Our community has become one where there are not a lot of children and they have done open enrollment to offset the lack of children here. I urge you to please understand that this isn't about state report cards not being correct, I believe 100% that they are. This is not the same school I graduated from in 2000 and the same opportunities are not available. I urge you as a tax payer, a voter, a citizen of Ohio, and a mother, please do not take these opportunities away from these children and give them back to the educators who are not providing for them. Let us parents who are here day to day make the choices that we need and do what is best for our children.

Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Roberts

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