

Dear Madame/ Mr. Representative,

As a concerned parent of a child whom receives the current EdChoice scholarship allowing my son to go to a private, religious school, I would like to give my testimony and witness statement.

I'm writing regarding the EdChoice Works Scholarship which allows children to escape struggling schools and find a school that works for them.

My eight-year old son Mason currently benefits from this scholarship and attends Trinity Catholic School in Grandview. As a single mother I would not be able to afford Trinity Catholic School without this scholarship.

Mason attended Columbus City Schools during kindergarten and 1st grade before the EdChoice Works Scholarship became available to us. He had qualified for Gifted and Talented services, but was turned away due to his age. Sadly, Mason was bullied every day, physically and mentally, and found it difficult to concentrate on his learning. In 1st grade he took it upon himself to teach English to immigrant children in his class. He enjoyed the benefit of learning Spanish as he used his abilities to communicate with non-native English speakers.

Many times I picked him up from school to find the building on lock down for one reason or another. I'm sure you understand this only added to the stress of his being personally bullied due to his small size and meek demeanor.

As a single mother who works full time I don't qualify for a low income based scholarship, but would be unable to afford Trinity Catholic without EdChoice. I feel the decision to take away this scholarship would be detrimental to many families around Ohio.

Mason is doing very well at Trinity Catholic in Grandview. Their educational goals are in-line with the current educational standards found in the Public Education System. He feels safe, has many friends, and, frankly, is learning things I would never have imagined in his previous environment. He is even talking about plans to attend college where before he couldn't stand going to school.

As a child, I had a wonderful school experience in attending Columbus City Schools, but unfortunately, times have changed. And as any parent would, I desire even more for Mason.

Please consider my concerns about the potential loss of benefits to our family if the EdChoice Scholarship were to be taken away as you vote on this important issue.

It really does makes a difference for us!

Thank you in advance,

Nikisha Wright

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

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