

Dear Representatives,

I am sorry I will not be able to make it Columbus to share in person. Thank you for allowing more voices to be heard from those who actually pay taxes to support the education of our future citizens. Families across the State of Ohio are desperately seeking school options that will best meet our children's needs, yet continue to be forced to double pay for education; once through taxes locked up for public schools, and again for tuition dollars toward a private education. This is unacceptable! Parents are best equipped to choose the right education system for their child. The role of our government should be to protect our future generations by ensuring access to appropriate education, not control the school children are educated. Keeping students trapped in schools that are not working for them, regardless of scorecard, is wrong and wasting tax payers money.

The need for expanded school choice options for families is significant. It is long overdue for the State to stop operating in biased protection of unions and inefficient public systems. For example, the Clear Fork Local School District recently passed an income tax levy thereby unfairly taxing productive earners more than others, which is in addition to our property taxes. The "reason" was to build a new school. In irresponsible public school precedent, two new elementary schools were built, went over budget, and the Bellville school is already maxed out in capacity unable to accommodate new housing developments currently being developed that will bring additional young families to our community. Meanwhile, Butler elementary has empty classrooms. And, the district is crying that its budget is extremely tight. Yet my family is held captive in being forced to send over \$4,000 annually to the school district who allowed personal agendas to interfere with providing educational excellence with responsible fiscal management.

Our family has made an intentional, well thought out decision to send our 2nd grader to Mansfield Christian School. MCS is an accredited institution that has over 50 years of demonstrated success in contributing to the education of our children and betterment of our community. This decision has required significant sacrifice for my family as our child's educational costs are doubled because we are penalized by the State's decision to withhold our family's educational funds for its own agenda. We have two more children that will be enrolling at MCS, causing even more sacrifice for us to be "allowed" to choose the best education system for our children.

Additionally, the current EdChoice "scholarship" falls significantly short of covering the true cost of educating a student in an accredited program. The State should know this since it provides over 50% more to public schools. This puts those most vulnerable at risk of not getting access to the schools they need since the "scholarship" falls below the cost to educate the student. Private schools can't operate in the red with a guaranteed stream of income from the State, therefore are forced to increase fees in order to accommodate for the "scholarships" that fall far below the actual cost of educating with excellence.

Please remember to base your decisions around school choice around our children, not public school activists who have long taken for granted a guaranteed revenue stream. If their product is a good as they lead you to believe, then they have nothing to worry about.

Thank you for pushing the pause button and allowing your constituents a voice in the conversation. School choice is good for students, good for all schools, and good for our future. Please support expanding school choice and casting your vote in support of our children's best interest.

Sincerely,

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