

February 11, 2020

Dear Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

As parents, we are the primary educators of our children and believe that parental choice in education is a fundamental right. We are writing you because our rights and the rights of many others are currently being challenged. We have relied on EdChoice to provide our child with an excellent education that we would not be able to afford otherwise and is not available with our current school district. The plan was also to use the EdChoice Scholarship program for our other children once they reached high school age. Our son is thriving in his current high school and uprooting him at this point will be detrimental. He is an excellent student and athlete that will no doubt make amazing contributions to our society in the future. As his parents, we are most knowledgeable of his educational needs and the best environment for him to meet his potential. If you were to take the EdChoice scholarship away from our son, he would subsequently need to transfer to a different school. We fear this will have a profound negative impact on him academically and psychologically. In addition, the removal of the scholarship would impact our other two children's future as well. As a taxpayer, it is extremely frustrating and unfair to change the rules of the program at this date and is poor public policy. This has created uncertainties for not only our family, but many families in our community.

Ohio has been a national leader for parental choice in education. As tax paying constituents, we ask you to carefully consider what is truly in the best interest of our Ohio schools. The future of our children and their education depends on you. Changing the program to income based only would likely result in many middle- class families who work extremely hard to lose the scholarship and force them to send their children to schools that are underperforming. To make these changes at all, and particularly at this date is categorically unjust.

Sincerely,

Patricia Eiler-Sims and Lawrence Sims

Sent from my iPhone