

## Ohio Ed Choice

Good day, my name is Donald Miceli of 4388 Longmeadow Lane, Beavercreek OH, 45430. I am writing today to urge continued support for the recent EdChoice bill signed into law. The original intent was to help failing schools achieve irrespective of the location or social status. I applaud the comments from the House speaker who said "This is the first step on the road to meaningful education reform that works for all Ohio students, regardless of their ZIP Code or circumstances," House Speaker Larry Householder, R-Glenford, (DeFeo, 2020). This is an important step in treating all students equally regardless of where they live. I applaud the effort of lawmakers who are focused on fixing an issue for all, rather than for a select group of students and concur with the Ohio Education Association comments which stated "The Ohio House took an important step to transform the voucher program in a way that moves away from the blame game and toward meeting the needs of ALL students," Ohio Education Association (OEA) President Scott DiMauro said in a news release. (DeFeo, 2020).

In an attempt to make it fair, the Ohio Department of Education put out specific criteria for which schools must meet. As I understand, irrespective of a school location or social class, the evaluation indicators included: (Ohio Department of Education, 2019)

- Performance
- Graduation
- Lowest 10 percent
- Literacy
- District Performance
- Academic Distress

As a result of the criteria set by the Department of Education, Beavercreek High School meets the criteria and is contained on the list of designated schools (Education, 2020). In fact, Beavercreek City Schools has announced their inclusion on their own web page, "Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, BCS has one (1) school with this designation. Beavercreek High School, because of its value-added grade (F) on its 2018-2019 state report card, has been designated as "underperforming." (Beavercreek City Schools, 2019).

Understanding the dilemma now caused by schools who were not expected to fail but did fail, might cause you to change the bill, I strongly urge you to resist trying to place other criteria on the taxpayer as part of new legislation. According to dictionary.com, the definition of criterion is a principle or standard by which something may be judged or decided. In my mind, changing your criteria after the fact negates the purpose of the original criteria selected and lends itself to discrimination or reverse discrimination. As a long time middle income Greene County taxpayer who lives in Beavercreek, I should have access to the same resources afforded to perhaps others of different income levels who historically live in districts with underperforming schools. Therefore, I strongly urge you to stay the course and uniformly enforce the legislation you have determined the subject years in question.

I kindly ask that someone read this letter before the board, and reply to it as I will not be able to attend the hearings in person. Thanks in advance for hearing my concern.

Sincerely,

Donald Miceli

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