

Good Morning,

I hope you are doing well.

I am writing to you in support of the EdChoice Scholarship. As a single parent in the Parma City School District, my son attends Padua Franciscan High School. He excels in his school. He takes AP Courses and has the option for College Credit Plus. The faculty and staff are engaged in my child's future. I don't have to read social media posts about Padua that there are fights in the school or police have been called like I read on the Parma High School pages. I know that my son is receiving the best education that will help him in future growth. His school offers MedTrack, BusinessTrack and multiple other areas of study. If my public school district cannot handle the money that they had from me for 15 years and continually asks for more, will they will cut the programs that they have, which puts my child at a disadvantage? They will and have.

We have lived in Parma for over 15 years. During that time, I have voted for levies for my public schools even though my son did not attend the public schools. He couldn't be bused to his elementary school for the first 6 years due to money. None of the tax dollars that I paid out, supported my child. The school is failing. The school has had my money and is still failing. When is it time for parents to be able to say – enough is enough? The school district had a chance to make their schools better for years and I have watched. It has gotten worse, not better.

I have been watching all the committee meetings. I appreciate the opportunity that the Chairman has given everyone to testify. I unable to make the meetings as I work every day. I do have one question. Rep. Edwards keeps mentioning that he is OK with the income-based scholarship. If the schools are good enough for my son (that is a struggle to pay for), then why isn't it good enough for every child even based on income? That makes no sense. In essence, the government is telling me that I make this amount and I can afford the school. No one knows my bills and what I have to pay. No one knows if I am just above the poverty level but barely getting by I struggle to give my child the best opportunities. My son matters. Rep. Edwards thinks that only those families that make a certain amount, matters.

I have also heard about students that haven't even entered into (or as Parma Superintendent said when I contacted him, step foot in our building) the public schools that are now getting vouchers. What this is telling me that you want every child to go to the failing public school for one year, and then transfer. I moved my whole life. It's hard to go to a school and then leave. It's hard to meet kids that have attended the school from the beginning and start over. That's not a good way for anyone to treat children. I KNOW what is best for my child. I pay taxes. I support my community. My child should not be punished for failing schools. I have also heard the idea of "you can move" to a better school district. First, I don't have the money to move and buy a house in the "good" school districts. Second, the city will lose out on revenue since Parma has a bunch of houses for sale and no one is buying since the schools are failing. It's a vicious circle and needs to be rectified. The people that everyone should listen to, are the people that actually pay the taxes, live in the community and know their children. Superintendents, etc. have jobs to do. This is a job to them. To me, it's personal and not a job. This is my child's future.

Every school should be held accountable and I should be able to decide where my son attends school, no matter how much money I may or may not make. I don't think anyone should have to pay for a failing school

Please keep EdChoice voucher in place, not just for income-based families. EVERY child deserves a chance. Please make the decision on what is best for ALL children and keep [the promise](#) that was already made.

Thank you for listening to me.

Best regards,

Michelle Bazzichi

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