

Good morning. My name is Christa Brubaker and I am here today to tell you how Ed. Choice has impacted my family.

My husband and I purchased our home in the Mansfield City School District in 1996. While he does not have a residency requirement for his employment with the Mansfield Police Department, we choose to live in the City because we believe in contributing to the community. We have diligently paid our property taxes (with 42% - 51% of those property taxes going to Mansfield City Schools) and I have never voted no on a school levy. I know that strong schools are important to the community.

If Traditional Ed. Choice is taken away, my children will be greatly affected. The year our twins were set to begin kindergarten (2008), the Mansfield City School district reassigned our children from Brinkerhoff Elementary (our neighborhood school) to Sherman Elementary (the area which my husband patrolled with the Mansfield Police Department). As parents, we knew that this was not the educational environment that we wanted for the safety of our children. Sherman Elementary was on the designated school list for Ed. Choice, and we were able to utilize this scholarship for them to attend St. Mary School in Mansfield. Our children thrived in this small school setting, where they received individualized instruction and were able to learn without behavioral or safety concerns. However, when our youngest daughter was ready for kindergarten (2011), Sherman Elementary was no longer on the designated schools list, so we were unable to apply for an Ed. Choice Scholarship for her. Since we wanted to provide the same educational opportunities for her, my husband has worked many extra security jobs to pay for her tuition for the past nine years. Now that she is an eighth grade student, we need to consider our options for her for high school. The Ed. Choice Scholarship has followed Cara and Caden into high school and they are excelling at St. Peter's in Mansfield, currently the top two students in the junior class. Naturally we want to provide Caelyn with these same educational opportunities. However, the tuition will be \$4,000 more for high school than what we are currently paying. Because of working extra hours to pay for Caelyn's tuition, we do not qualify for the Ed. Choice Expansion. We were so hopeful last year when eighth grade students who live in the Mansfield City School district were eligible to apply for Traditional Ed. Choice. After confirming this when the new eligible schools list was released, I began the registration process at St. Peter's for Caelyn. She is looking forward to starting high school at St. Peter's, but she may be denied this opportunity if changes are made to the Ed. Choice program.

We have provided over \$30,000 to the Mansfield City School District in property taxes over the past twenty years. Not one cent of that money has gone to provide educational services for my three children. Meanwhile, the City Schools receive over \$15,000 per student from the State of Ohio. Ed. Choice saves the State of Ohio money, providing approximately half that amount per student with combined Auxiliary Services, Administrative Cost Reimbursement, and Ed. Choice funds. Ed. Choice has provided wonderful opportunities for my children and many others at their schools. Please don't take this away from them!

Thank you!