

Cole Kinnach Testimony

Good morning. Thank you for allowing me to speak. My name is Cole Kinnach and I am in the 7th grade at Finneytown Secondary Campus. I am here to ask you to keep public dollars in public schools.

Have you ever gone to public school? I believe that students in public schools get access to as much of an education as students in private schools. It is also a great environment for kids to grow their sense of community. Many things help me come to this conclusion.

There are many events and other things that public schools do to make you feel welcome. We have many pep rallies and assemblies and people really enjoy them and have fun. We also have a very intriguing talent show. Our school also has a house system and do many friendly competitions. This house system helps us build community and friendship across diverse groups. Our school is full of many cultural and financial backgrounds and even though we may have differences, we are all great friends. We also have the opportunity to learn compassion for students that may have a more difficult time at home than we do.

I notice that private schools do not usually have that diverse of a community. Many private schools are also religious, which could make some people feel like isolated if they do not believe the same thing. I definitely support religious freedom, however, if we give public dollars to support private schools then I believe it goes against the idea of the First Amendment and the separation of church and state.

When we build community at local schools, we also are building togetherness and understanding. We understand each other and the teachers. We give them respect and they teach us very well-planned lessons. We all learn a lot from them.

I believe some of the people trying to pass this law think that private education is a lot better than public education. This is untrue because public schools give students many opportunities. We participate in science fairs to help us learn how to experiment. We participate in wax museums to help us learn how to research. Last year I had great fun acting as Milton Hershey in our wax museum. Public schools also give so many kids a chance to learn at an even higher level of education. For example, I am currently taking Algebra as a seventh grader. I also take advanced reading and advanced writing. Next year I will have the privilege of taking Spanish I and Geometry as an eighth grader.

As I have stated above public schools give a big sense of community. Through the community, it teaches the kids respect for teachers and learning. Though some people think public schools provide a worse education, it actually gives the same education or maybe even better. Instead of giving the money to private schools, please give it to public schools so that public school students can have access to an even better education.

Thank you for you for taking the time to listen to me today.