



February 14, 2020

Dear Ohio Legislators,

My name is Susan Gibbons and I currently serve as the superintendent of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. I have been a classroom teacher and also served students and families as a high school administrator. I am proud to have 42 years of educational experience. I currently represent 38,347 children and their families. The name "Archdiocese of Cincinnati" implies the Cincinnati area. In actuality, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has a large geographical region within the state of Ohio. The boundaries of the Archdiocese include 19 counties, 107 schools and we work with 43 Local Education Agencies (LEA's). Our geographical footprint goes all the way from the Kentucky/Ohio border to Lima, Ohio and as far west as Greenville and east as Ripley.

Since the beginning of the EdChoice Scholarship Program, our children and their parents have benefitted by giving parents a chance to choose the best learning environment that fits the needs of their children. Presently, of the 38,347 students in our schools, 10,044 are benefitting from either EdChoice Expansion or the Traditional Scholarship Program (1887 Expansion and 8157 Traditional). Students and their families have been able to receive a quality education, acclimate to their schools as a community, make friends, know their teachers, understand the regime of their school and avail themselves of support programs that are servicing the needs of the individual child.

Our families and their children are now in a state of the unknown. Many planned as early as July 2019 to attend or continue to attend one of our schools. With the recent information regarding HB 9 and the discussions continuing at this time, no one can plan for the 2020-2021 school year. This is a detriment to both public and private schools. I am of course, very passionate about our Catholic schools within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. This delay affects all schools within the state of Ohio. I urge you to give careful consideration to EdChoice Scholarship Programs and not make decisions in haste about the future of these programs. Many children and their families are depending on you to help them achieve a successful future. Parents have chosen schools that best fit their children. Please take time to carefully consider all options (up to one year) before enacting any new laws that change our focus from children and their families to a fast-fix that could potentially harm those futures.

Respectfully,

Susan M. Gibbons  
Director of Educational Services and Superintendent  
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

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