

## Violet Kimnach Testimony

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Violet Kimnach and I am 10 years old and in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Whitaker Elementary in Finneytown. I am here to ask you to support public schools like mine by giving us appropriate funds. It sounds like your current plan is to take money from my school to give it to private schools and I don't understand why.

This year and last year I learned about opinions and how you need to look at the other side of what you actually believe. Will you be willing to look at my side of the situation? Will you be willing to take a look at the importance that public schools bring to many people?

Here are some things I like to do in school that I would like you to keep giving money towards them so I can achieve my goal of being a psychologist, radiologist or entrepreneur. My favorite subject in school is math. At my school I get to be a part of Math Olympiad, which is fun but challenging. Last year and this year I have been learning pre-Algebra and I helped design a probability assignment for my class. For language arts we have done Newberry Award book reports, pumpkin book reports and we are learning about Greek and Latin roots. For science we have created animal classification projects and created our own lightbulbs.

I like how many activities I get to be a part of at my school and I am worried that your choices may take that all away. I do choir, theater and student council. All of these have taught me to have courage to speak in front of large crowds. I also enjoy basketball, soccer and running. I want to be able to do these sports in middle school, but if you don't put enough money towards public schools then I may not get to achieve that.

I already notice that when I visit other schools for sports that they seem to have more money to use for cooler stuff than our school does. I wonder why that is and worry that if we get less money than it will only get worse. I believe my teachers and my principal are just as good as teachers at private schools.

I also notice that my school has a lot of diversity. I have the chance to learn about other cultures because my school is diverse. In 1<sup>st</sup> grade I had some Nepali friends and they taught me some Nepali words. We also have a World Culture Night that I think is cool because you get to see all the cultures of the different people who live in our community. Being in a diverse school is helpful because it is more like living in the real world than only being around people that are just like you.

I also enjoy going to a school that is in my community. My friends that go to school with me also live close to me.

Instead of taking away money from us to give to those that have more money in private schools, please give more money to us so that myself, and other public-school students, can achieve our dream and build America's future.

Thank you for giving me the time to share my opinion.