

My name is Carrie Baker. I'm a 9th grade Biology teacher with the Parma City School District and member of the Parma Education Association. I'm speaking today on behalf of myself and our 760 certified Association members who teach the over 9,000 students of Parma City Schools, and in support of Senate Bill 89 as passed by the Ohio House. Senate Bill 89 is geared toward correcting injustices caused by the EdChoice voucher program. EdChoice is unjust on many levels including the fact that decisions are based on the state's flawed report card system, and also because it funnels more money away from public schools in order to fund the program. This year two Parma schools out of 14 were deemed failing and qualified as EdChoice schools. Next year 8 out of the 14 are classified that way. It means a loss of over \$3 million dollars by the end of the 2020-21 school year. This loss will make it more difficult for us to ensure reasonable class sizes and the availability of up-to-date resources, and much needed services for our students, 46% of whom are economically disadvantaged. It will create more stress trying to pass levies to make up for the shortfall when it's already a big challenge to do so in our community. Why should residents spend their hard-earned dollars on a levy when they can't be certain their tax dollars will go toward their local public schools? In addition, providing choice to some who have never chosen to be Parma City School students is unfair and is at the expense of our own students.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Mrs. Carrie Baker  
Valley Forge High School  
Biology Teacher  
2014 NEScent Evolutionary Educator of the Year  
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