

Dear Senate Committee,

Our child attended Hilliard City Schools when we moved to Ohio in 2015. It became increasingly clear that her needs were not being met by our public school district as her formerly strong academic performance and health began to decline. Joy required the consistent example of Jesus Christ's standard of moral excellence and the rigorous academic instruction provided by Tree of Life Christian Schools. She has attended TOL for three years now with much personal and financial sacrifice on all of our parts. Joy is a thriving honor roll student, community advocate through her school, the Columbus Children's Choir, and her own personal local outreach, including courageously speaking to the press on HB 9 at the statehouse last month. Joy and her two classmates were the only Ohio teens present representing scholars affected by Ed Choice at the event. After following her friend's tearful testimony, Joy shared her perspective and summed it up with her prayer of faith in God and plea to the committee regarding HB9 "Weeping may endure through the night but joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5)

We have been waiting for our school district to finally be on the recent Ed Choice school list and have enrolled our child at TOL for 20-21 with the understanding that part of her tuition will be covered as an Ed Choice scholar. At last we are now confident that she can remain at the best school for her instead having the ever looming concern of having to return to her public school district due to financial hardship. Our family will continue to enrich our community by providing our financial support through our taxes to our neighbors whose children attend the public school where our child is not receiving instruction due to it failing to meet her needs. As evidenced by Hilliard Bradley HS being on the 20-21 Ed Choice list, HSC will not meet our daughter's needs in the near future so we ask for HB 9 to stand for her and for all Ohio students who have the right to learn in an atmosphere where they can flourish.

Thank you,

Ann M. Wilhoite, M.Ed.