



Crooksville Exempted Village School District

Chairman Jones and members of the House Bill 9 Conference Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today regarding Ohio's EdChoice Voucher program, I am Matt Sheridan, superintendent of Crooksville Exempted Village Schools.

While I cannot fully endorse any solution that sends public dollars to private schools, SB 89 is the preferred solution over the current budget language and HB 9.

In contrast to the current budget language and HB 9, SB 89 does not deduct money directly from schools but rather from a set aside from the state to pay for these vouchers. Although it remains a disgrace that our state continues to have an unconstitutional system of funding public education an entire generation after the original DeRolph case, SB 89 offers a solution that does not directly harm the funding to public schools. Of course, I would still prefer our legislatures put forth the effort to find a way to constitutionally fund our public schools instead of worrying about how to fund private ones.

Another benefit of SB 89 over the current budget language and HB 9 is that it does not use the state report card to determine voucher eligibility. Not only are these report cards extremely flawed and merely a reflection of wealth in a school district, private schools are not measured by the same metrics. How can you use one set of criteria to label a public school district as a poor performer or failure and not use the same set of criteria to evaluate the private school alternative? It makes no sense.

SB 89 is a much more reasonable proposal to fund Ed Choice vouchers than the current budget language and HB 9.

Chairman Jones and members of the House Bill 9 conference committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide input regarding Ohio's EdChoice Voucher program. I am happy to address your questions.