

Dear Committee:

I understand there are reasons for everything you decide. Please let me tell you about how we planned on the \$6,000 Ed Choice assistance to pay for my Honor Student, Misty Whitelock who always went to a Private School until this school year.

After moving out of Garfield Heights due to my divorce and wanting to get my children into a better neighborhood, Misty went to Valley Forge, the same school I graduated from, but it isn't the same. Times have changed. Kids walk in with pajamas, blankets, shorts, half shirts, mini skirts and no coats when it's 20 degrees out. This is distracting. Misty told me she would rather wear a uniform. Misty wants to be a doctor. She has since she was 3. She would wrap us all up in bandages, including the dog. I sometimes think she was born to do it. Her focus on school work became her own passion and I realized when she went to Valley Forge, the culture and expectations were much different and she would tell me she would like the opportunity to go back to a Catholic or private school. "We can't even talk about God or any religion." I find that sad as all religions and people should be accepted as it keeps an open mind.

Today, in class the teacher asked how many kids were going to college about 5 raised their hands out of about 30 students.

Education is important for the future of this state and country.

Holy Name offers a medical program that will help Misty excel and reach her dreams. Isn't that what a school should do? Valley Forge doesn't offer what a private school can.

We counted on our government to keep their promise to help children be able to choose their own destinies.

As a single parent going through a divorce, we need the state's help to award the Ed Choice. I would have to borrow all my retirement money to send her there because I believe in this school and I believe in my daughter.

Our own President said, "Children should not be forced to go to failing government schools."

To decide at the last minute you weren't going to let these children choose, has caused an undue strain and stress on our family.

Imagine if this were your child or you missing an opportunity?

Misty is an honors student who worked hard to get good grades and has obtained at least 2 scholarships for \$1500, but we need the Ohio Ed Choice and then I will have to pay for the rest which will be manageable after Ed Choice.

Think about why Ed Choice started, what it means for children that lead this country in the future and take care of you.

I want to be there in person, but sometimes working on commission, it's hard to get away, but I will if you need me.

We plead with you to please help these children and let them choose.

Thank you in advance.