

February 19, 2020

Re: SB 98 Written Testimony

Dear Chairman Jones, State Representative Edwards, State Representative Robinson, State Senator Fedor, State Senator Roegner and State Senator Peterson,

My name is Angela Rosenberg and my educational choice for my kids is our public schools. I am also the face of a catholic school education. My parents weren't wealthy, but a Catholic education was very important to them. My parents budgeted and saved to send my sister and I to parochial school. I asked them both years later if they would have pulled vouchers and have the state and local school district help ease the burden of tuition. They both vehemently said no. They believed that public education is set up to educate all children of our state and community. My parents made the choice not to utilize our local school district; therefore, they felt, it was their responsibility to pay the full tuition on their own. They also noted that they supported their local school district 100% and voted yes when levies were placed on the ballot.

Since 2006, I have watched my state legislature support school choice. I also watched it support private and parochial education over public education continuously. That support has led us to where we are today-- a system that has been crippled and is now set up to fail the majority of students in our state. It is set up to cause even a top ten district in our state to fail. Consequently, It has now set up my four children to fail because their father and I chose public education.

I would like my state legislature to remember the wisdom of my parents who knew that tax dollars were for public education only. If my government continues to insist on vouchers, I would like for them to have their own line item and not deducted from what little state dollars our districts receive. I would like vouchers to be based on need, not the flawed state evaluation currently practiced. Private and parochial schools need to be held to the same rigorous state standards as our public school districts if they choose to accept public tax dollars. If we are trying to level the playing field, my government must use the same rigorous measures for all students. This includes the same state testing, same financial audits and same enrollment standards; schools receiving voucher aid should not be allowed to pick and choose who they admit to their school or kick out. Finally, vouchers should only be given to those individuals that are at the poverty line. EdChoice was always a program designed to help the poor.

Ohio is known for its great state colleges. It is because we always invested in our public school districts, that our colleges are so strong. As the current state legislators, I implore you to stop setting the majority of our children up for failure and instead create policy that strengthens our public school districts and sets our children and the great state of Ohio up for success in the 21st century.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Angela Rosenberg
Hudson, Ohio
beachmomrn@gmail.com