

My name is John J Manfredi and I am a 15 year school board vice president member from Berkshire Local Schools in Burton, Ohio I am writing you today to voice my opinion on EDChoice section on House Bill ____.

I have raised 3 children that went through Private and/or Public schools. My two daughters both attended parochial school and one graduated, the second attended and transferred to Public school in 11th grade. My son is autistic and went to public school.

Education is not a one size fits all and I advocate for all education choices. I and my wife sacrificed and payed our kids way through all the education needs, and gladly did so. I had to pay for additional speech therapy for my son because he needed this as a young child to help support what education

he received at our Public school.

I have spent the last 15 years as a board member watch funding shrink to our school in different areas that affected the services we can provide our students

and especially our special needs children.

The obligation of testing and judging which school should loose funding because of scores does not tell the entire story of how a school is rated.

Let me tell you that last year we had 11 special needs students that did not graduate because that were not ready. This then penalized our district because of graduation rate.

I will never allow our district to push a special needs child out if they are not ready or prepared for the workplace. Now districts like ours will loose funding and ship them to

schools that not only educate special needs children, but the are not judged on the same platform.

Please do not punish public education because you only weaken the education these schools provide to students that need it the most.

I would gladly discuss in person with any legislature the alternative methods that would help ALL students at any school.

Thank you for your time.

John J. Manfredi
Berkshire Local Schools