Good Afternoon,

The schools in our district, Toledo Public, have been struggling for quite a long time. Every public school needs funding and I have voted for every tax increase or tax continuation on the ballot because I understand that need. I have paid my taxes to support the public schools for years and did not have children enrolled in a public school. Now that I want to send my children to a school that would provide a superior education, the rug has been pulled out from under us at the 11th hour. We should have the choice where to send our children to school.

Unfortunately, no amount of money thrown at TPS will fix their issues. The issues at hand follow a Social Determinants of Health model - socioeconomic factors are the main cause of the issues TPS faces. While we as a community can provide supportive measures for the families that attend TPS, EdChoice dollars will not fix what is broken here.

For the schools that my daughters would attend, specifically Old Orchard and DeVeaux, they are really struggling. Toledo Public data dashboard shows worrisome scores:
My husband and I think this is unacceptable! TPS has been receiving funding for years and I have yet to see any overarching improvement in their scores. They are failing their students!

EdChoice, as it currently stands, works. These scholarships allow children to escape struggling schools and find a school that works for them. My husband and I do not fall within the poverty guidelines. Paying 12k in tuition for both our girls would be very difficult, if not impossible for our family. Our daughter Addison has been attending Christ the King since Kindergarten (2017). She has her friends and she loves her school. She is both challenged and excelling. I hope the renew option for EdChoice remains. She will be entering 4th grade this fall. Our youngest daughter, Olivia, will be entering kindergarten this fall (2020). I want the same opportunities for Olivia has we and the EdChoice program have provided for Addison. There is a high expectation of the students at CK and I fully expect our daughters to strive to do their best, not enough to get by at a TPS school.

We truly do not believe the changes proposed by HB9 is in our kids’ best interest. Continuing the program would allow both my daughters to attend a school with high academic standards, high parent involvement, and many extracurricular activities to shape them into well-rounded, faith driven, college bound students.

Sincerely,
Geoffrey Vasquez & Julia Vasquez
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