

To Whom it May Concern,

The opportunity for our family to utilize the Ed Choice scholarship would be a blessing. For the last 11 years, our daughters have attended Catholic school. There were years when our district (Springfield) was unable to provide the educational standards set by the state or even bussing for children in our district.

Because of the instability of this district, we felt it best that our daughters stay in the Catholic school system, even when it was not financially sustainable.

When my husband was out of work for 18 months, I worked 6-7 nights a week to ensure our girls could stay in the school they were attending. My husband has been gainfully employed for more than five years, but has been consistently working overtime at every opportunity in order to pay back our debts incurred during unemployment as well as to pay tuition for our daughters.

While we are not living in poverty, we both work full-time jobs to pay for education. Through the years our tax money to our district wasn't used for educating our family or even always transportation. It is fair to say that we have not received, from the district, the gains of our financial contribution.

We're asking that you please reconsider revoking the decision to make the proposed changes to Ed Choice.

Not only would a positive outcome help numerous families in our situation, but it would allow the time to fully examine any flaws in the Ed Choice system. This time would afford full and proactive deliberation, rather than a reactionary decision to a public debate.

The state could even fund this endeavor with the 10 million dollar stop gap without burdening our public school system while a new and precise plan is created.

Thank you for your consideration,
Melissa Kukiela