

My name is Thasia Awad and my children are recipients of The EdChoice voucher program. Because my family represents the families who will be affected by the potential cut, I felt like my voice needed to be heard!

I'm not speaking on behalf of families who have access to a successfully thriving public school education, I'm speaking on behalf of families who DO NOT have access to such. I need you to know how my family and families like mine will be affected if this voucher program is eliminated.

EdChoice creates access for families like mines!!!

If EdChoice is taken away from us you will be rebuilding the very barriers that were taken down for us through this voucher such as safety, increased parental satisfaction and involvement, an education tailored to family needs, and options for low-**income** and middle class families.

Not everyone can afford to send their children to a school that upholds their values but the EdChoice program makes it possible for us to do this!

I recently found out that EdChoice only receives 1% of funding and has to be stretched between thousands of families... For this reason, many families still struggle to pay whatever EdChoice can not cover! So if you ask me, a proud mama of 4 and a wife to a local Business owner, we should be arguing over how much more money EdChoice should be awarded!

Because my time is limited, I will close with asking you to think about the educational environment you will send most of our children back to. Think about the barriers you are rebuilding Think about what the families will have to face.

And lastly,

Think about why our families need the choice to choose!

And that when you tell me that the taxes we pay into is going towards an educational system we have no choice in is just like telling

me that you are giving us a seat at the table, making us pay for the food then refusing to give us a choice of what we want to eat!