



January 23, 2020

Proponent Testimony  
H.B. 409 (Koehler)

Chairman Jones, Vice-Chair Manchester, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee. Thank you for permitting me to submit written testimony in support of H.B. 409.

My name is Kevin Bacon and I serve as President and CEO of School Choice Ohio. Founded in 2005, School Choice Ohio is a 501 (C)(3) nonprofit organization that educates parents statewide on available education options and advocates for the expansion of quality options for every Ohio child.

School Choice Ohio believes that Ohio students benefit from a range of high-quality educational options because one size does not fit all. Different options and settings allow families to choose an option that best meets their child's needs. For many students, online community schools offer a needed alternative to more traditional settings, providing students greater control over their schedule and allowing them to proceed at their own pace.

H.B. 409 is designed to help online community schools create early interventions designed to boost student engagement. This bill also works with parents and helps them understand how they can best ease the transition to a new school and setting. Consistent participation and student engagement are key to student achievement. Although this legislation does address accountability, it is first and foremost a child-centered policy designed to help students succeed.

Thank you to Rep. Koehler for taking on this issue. We urge your support for H.B. 409. Thank you.