

Testimony on HB 166: Main Operating Budget for FY 2020-2021  
Senate Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education  
Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Tamika Range  
Breakthrough Schools, Parent

Chairman Terhar, Vice Chair Lehner, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the Subcommittee; hello, my name is Tamika Range. I am both the parent and aunt of three Breakthrough alumni. I want to thank you for the opportunity to come before the Senate to represent my family, school organization, and community. Ten years ago while searching for a school that would provide my nephew, niece and my son a great education, both my mom and twin sister heard through word of mouth about a charter school called Citizens Academy Schools located in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

My mom encouraged my sister and her husband both to attend the schools upcoming open house where they met with staff, learned about the curriculum, and took a school tour. What made this school and organization stand out above all other Cleveland public schools was that many parents we knew from both community and local churches were talking about this school. After accepting the offer to Citizens as our school of choice we then received a call from our child's teacher that year to schedule a home visit. This allowed my nephew, niece, and eventually son's first encounter with their school teacher to be in the privacy of our home. The children each met their new teacher each year at home and received educational tools along with school supplies which aided in their academic success for that year.

As both a parent and now a staff member of Breakthrough schools I have seen the product of what our organization has accomplished with the resources that have been allotted and donated. I now know, that with the additional resources and support in House Bill 166, the Breakthrough organization will be able to continue reaching more families by providing them with quality educators and a competitive education. Let us never forget, our children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way, show them all the beauty they possess inside, give them a sense of pride to make it easier....(Whitney Houston sang it best!~1985)

Please support both the funding for Quality Charter Schools, as well as the funding for Wraparound Services. Both are critical to our continued success.

Note, it is our God given responsibility and right to do everything in our power as government, community and parent leaders to write the vision and make it plain in order to lead our children in the direction in which they should go!

Let's lead by example!

Thank you, and I'd be happy to answers any questions you may have.