



St. Timothy School  
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St. Timothy School  
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Chairman Dolan, Vice Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify today and talk about school choice.

We, as a school, have always embraced the opportunity to work with students and the families who participate in the EdChoice scholarship program. It has been very impactful on our community in a variety of positive ways.

These scholarships have allowed our school to become far more diverse. Our school is much more of a reflection of our truly diverse country rather than the small surrounding neighborhood where we typically pull students from. This would not have been possible without the EdChoice program.

This diversity has also enabled our students to hear and be more respectful and mindful of differing points of view. They learn so much from each other by interacting with people who do not just live down the street or go to all of the same places they do. We have found that when they play, they learn just how much more alike they are, than different. And that is something we hope they will take with them into adulthood.

For our faculty, the scholarship has allowed them to grow and become better educators. In working with students from different backgrounds, it has reinforced that one size does not fit all in education. It has allowed our teachers to grow in their craft and not be afraid of trying new techniques to reach all of our children. For everything that we teach our students, they return the favor ten-fold. We are better for having taught them.

The EdChoice scholarship has allowed us to fulfill our roles as educators to all and also has enabled us to serve as missionaries for society. The scholarship has allowed us to share our gifts with as many children as possible and make an impact. We have also been able to serve as role models for students from various backgrounds.

Every year we have many families that do not qualify for the scholarship who are struggling with paying the bills and providing food on their tables, just so they can send their



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student to our school. These families work various jobs just to make ends meet, but they desire that high quality educational opportunity for their children and are willing to make those sacrifices. We also have students who are the caregivers for siblings to parents can work night jobs to provide for their families.

Some families have been put on the wait list which has caused a great deal of stress on the families. They have all wanted to attend St. Timothy but were unsure if the scholarship would be awarded, so they were left in a kind of limbo until the decision is made. This has led to a great deal of anxiety for families who really just want the best for their children. Every summer, when the class rosters come out, we have names that end up being crossed out because these families did not qualify for the EdChoice scholarship and therefore their children can't attend our school. It is often very sad for the families, the students, and for the school, because it is an opportunity lost.

Transportation stress for our students was an issue we faced. When the public school district came to us 9-10 years ago and they informed us that the buses could come at either 7:15 am or 9:00 am, the choice was ours. Our school day back then began at 8:30am. As a result of this mandate, we either had to begin school earlier or start our day later. We chose to begin school at 8:00 am so we could fit into the Columbus City School's transportation needs but that then caused a trickle down effect and affected busing for other districts busses. Today, we have learned how to make the best of it and done what is best for the students.

I thank you all of the opportunity to speak to you on this topic. EdChoice is something we are very passionate about at St. Timothy School. It has enriched our school, our community, and our lives in ways we never imagined. Our school is more reflective of the world we live in and that is so important. I thank you giving me the time to talk to you about this today.