



# OHIO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NETWORK

*A Network of Center for Christian Virtue*

Chair Gayle Manning, Vice Chair Adam Bird, Ranking Member Phil Robinson, and Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the 120 schools in the Ohio Christian Education network to strongly oppose House Bill 34 which seeks to put a regulation on nonpublic schools that diminishes their reasonable means of redress for tuition payments.

The schools in the Ohio Christian Education Network charge their students tuition which funds the entire education process. The tuition payment creates a contract between the parents and the school for which both parties should be held accountable. Collecting tuition provides children with the education their family chose when deciding to enroll the child in a nonpublic school option.

When a child leaves the private school, they may still have a balance on their account for the education they have received and, of course, the private school still has bills to pay. Typically, the nonpublic school will withhold the student's transcript until the balance is paid. This contractual remedy is much simpler than court proceedings or unnecessary litigation. Just as if the school failed to educate the child and the parents withheld tuition, however, the school can't take back the education they've provided. Schools need a method to hold the parent accountable and transcript withholding provides that. House Bill 34 unnecessarily regulates this contractual process and forces an unnatural outcome.

Yes, the process of transferring schools is sometimes arduous. Even so, a nonpublic school student will frequently outperform his peers at public school and a transcript may not even be the best method of assessing student needs at a new school. Rather than interfering in a contract between a school and parents, we should think of ways to better address the disparities between public and nonpublic schools so that students can be served no matter where they attend and their needs can be assessed more accurately than by transcripts.

Respectfully,  
Corrinne Vidales, Esq.

Assistant Director  
Ohio Christian Education Network  
Center for Christian Virtue