

Testimony Regarding H.B. 110
May 5, 2021

Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony regarding H.B.110.

I am a parent who moved to Middletown due to the affordability and quality of life. However, the schools are not measuring up as they should so our children are in private schools.

As my children near high-school, the only public high school in town is not performing as it should. There is a great private high-school in town and I believe it is vital that the State's funds for education (my hard-earned tax money) be given to the parents to use for private schools if the public school where they live is not holding up its end of the bargain (i.e. is failing). The Ed Choice funds permit this. I think it is very important to keep in mind that allowing taxpayers to use education funds at the school of their choice where the local public school is failing is vitally important to the viability of many towns and cities in Ohio. If the local public schools are failing, and residents can't choose to take their education dollars with them to a nearby private school, it will result in the hollowing out of communities stricken with poor public schools. Middletown is a great town stricken with underperforming schools. Ed Choice keeps people in the city who would otherwise leave. I can testify to this reality. Many people who use Ed Choice to afford private school would move to a town with better schools if Ed Choice were not available. It is really a lifeline for towns with poor public schools and a way to avoid poor schools destroying good communities. It is essential that we save our small towns and cities by not letting bad public schools torpedo otherwise good towns.

Thank you for your past support of scholarship programs. Please continue to offer and fully fund scholarship programs and expand programs to meet the demand, so no families are shut out of the opportunity. Also, please consider increasing the value of the scholarships - it's been more than six years since scholarship amounts were increased. Also, please streamline the process. Right now, it is taking months to receive notice after applications are submitted. Families often do not have a decision until several months into the school year.

Thank you for your time.