



yes. every kid.
1320 N. Courthouse Rd.
Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22201

Chair Edwards and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of *yes. every kid.* *yes. every kid.* is an advocacy nonprofit whose purpose is to enable every family to customize an education that best matches their kid's unique abilities. Ohio has made great strides for education choice by creating access for some families but to make this happen for all Ohioans there is still more to do.

We are pleased to see the increase in the House budget offering up to 450% of FPL to the existing EdChoice scholarship but to truly allow for education freedom, we encourage you to look at creating a universal program to include all Ohioans in the budget. By creating a universal choice program, you will allow families to be the pilot of their child's education path.

Universal programs offer numerous benefits, including simplified administration and adaptability to families' changing circumstances. By eliminating bureaucratic income verification processes, universal programs are easier to administer and easier to access for families. Moreover, these programs avoid stigmatizing eligible families based on income, which can deter participation and perpetuate educational inequality. A child's access to quality education should not be dictated by their family's income.

Ohioans want options. *yes. every kid.* released the results of a poll conducted by WPA Intelligence on February 12. The poll was conducted all across the state from Akron, Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton, and Youngstown to name a few locations. The results showed that Ohio voters support implementing an Education Savings Account (ESA) program by a nearly five-to-one (5-1) margin, with 64% supporting and 13% opposing. Additionally, a majority of voters (74%) indicated support for school choice, where parents, instead of the government, are allowed to choose the best school for their child.

This polling highlights the positive momentum of putting the power of decisions in the hands of parents. Allowing them to access an educational experience that meets the individual needs of their child instead of what is dictated by a one-size-fits-all system. It's time we demand a system free of arbitrary constraints—one built to accommodate children, not averages.

We look forward to partnering with the House and Senate, so all Ohio families get access to as many universal education options as possible.

Thank you.

Tiffany Barfield
Government Affairs Director
yes. every kid.

