

Good afternoon, I would like to thank Representative Bird, Representative McClain, and Representative John. Also the primary and the secondary education committee for allowing me to read my supportive testimony for House Bill 11. My name is Aubrey Rhoads and I am a student at a private Christian high school in Delaware, Ohio. I previously attended Olentangy Local Schools for preschool through 7th grade. I chose to attend a formal homeschool program during my 8th grade year; I did not want to do online or the hybrid version of school and I definitely did not want to wear a mask. I am currently a freshman in my Christian high school and soon after starting this school year I saw a major difference between public and private schools. In public school, I felt like something was missing. I felt like I was on a computer all day and in my classes I wasn't taught what I needed to know. I was bored on most days and honestly never felt challenged.

One year of homeschool really pushed me to keep up. We studied Latin for example which I had no understanding of and spent the entire second part of the year preparing for a mock trial which we all did down the street from here in The Franklin County courthouse. I enjoyed the challenge and the learning but I missed the social aspect of school and asked my parents to pursue something else. My parents were afraid I would take a step back returning to public school and wanted to make sure I continued moving forward.

I couldn't be happier with our decision to attend my new private school, one that aligned with our families beliefs and values. I am now in a very small school. I barely go on my computer during the day and I have actual books. I was not used to a lot of homework but at my new school I have loads of it.

Overall it is very challenging for me with many hard assignments that really make me think. I can always go to teachers during study hall or get help with homework at the end of the day. I realize my parents are paying more for this but, I know I am learning a lot. I am much more involved in school both academically and socially than ever before and honestly feel supported by my peers, teachers and my parents.

Parents should have the choice on where their children go to school. Having competition in schooling is a good thing and as I have seen first-hand, improves the quality of education.

Thank you for considering the backpack bill which will help my family and other families afford the school of choice.