

HB 339 Proponent Testimony

February 13th

Torin Blackstone

Greetings Chair Bird, Vice-Chair Fowler-Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, my name is Torin Blackstone, and I am a sophomore at Zanesville Christian School.

I am writing to share my personal testimony about the profound impact that attending a Christian school has had on my life and how the proposed Non-Chartered Educational Savings Account Program would provide assistance with tuition costs. At Zanesville Christian School, I have been nurtured in an environment that values academic excellence, personal growth, and spiritual development. The dedicated teachers have not only equipped me with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed academically but have also instilled in me a strong sense of character and integrity. Through a curriculum rooted in Christian principles, I have learned the importance of service, leadership, and making a positive impact in the world around me.

Despite the immense benefits of attending Zanesville Christian School, the reality of tuition costs remains a challenge for my family and others that I go to school with. For my seven-year-old sister and I to attend the school, it costs my parents over \$6,000 dollars annually. This is why I am incredibly grateful for the proposed Non-Chartered Educational Savings Account Program, which would provide families like mine with financial assistance to help with tuition expenses. For students like me, this program would serve as a great help, offering the opportunity to continue receiving the benefits of a Christian education while lessening the burden of the financial sacrifices that my parents make to continue to send me to Zanesville Christian School.

I urge you to support the Non-Chartered Educational Savings Account Program and to prioritize the needs of students and families who seek to access quality education, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Sincerely,

Torin Blackstone
Zanesville Christian School Student