

## Testimony in favor of HB 339

Chairman Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson and distinguished members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to advocate for House Bill 339.

As a graduate of a non chartered non public (NCNP) school, it is important to me to support students currently enrolled in those schools and parents of those students by offering personal testimony that the education I received at an NCNP school throughout my primary and secondary education prepared me well for further education and for life.

Various things stand out to me as helpful factors in my education experience. One of the earliest is the excellent reading foundation I was given in kindergarten in my NCNP school. I was reading well before the school year was over and was able to start first grade studies early. Throughout my primary and secondary schooling, along with my classmates, I received personalized attention in a disciplined atmosphere with close accountability and excellent communication between school and home. Personalized assistance was available in any area in which I needed help, and because of these things I learned and grasped the materials well in all core areas rather than simply studying to pass tests. I was involved in fine arts competitions, sports, and debate, as well as taking part in local composition and speech contests with such groups as the local branch of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I competed in and won the local city spelling bee in my 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Our school scored high on annual testing, and my education prepared me well to obtain excellent ACT scores before graduating from high school.

During those secondary school years I went through a time of intense emotional turmoil. Looking back, I wonder how anyone put up with me. But they did. Instead of just getting put on a medical therapy that suppressed symptoms, my school worked with my mom to help me through that period, keep me moving forward with my education, and give me the support I needed to make it through secondary school successfully.

When I began college education with a major in nursing, I found that my secondary education had prepared me exceptionally well. I didn't require a college math course because my secondary math education had been sound and tested out of the first semester of college English. I found that the first semester of chemistry required for nursing students, rather than being difficult, was also largely review for me because I had learned the concepts so well in high school. I went on to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing and RN licensure in the state of Ohio. During my undergraduate education I was able to work as a nursing assistant at a couple of different local OH medical facilities during school vacations. Though I obtained my undergraduate nursing education out of state, I received scholarship help from the alumnae association of a local hospital's nursing school to help financially throughout my years in nursing school. I served as a

nurse out of state while obtaining graduate education in the Bible in preparation for the missions work I was interested in, and then returned to serve in the local OH hospital whose alumnae association had so generously helped me pay for my nursing education. I eventually found my niche in ER nursing, where I continued to work while obtaining a graduate education in nursing at the University of Toledo. I obtained a Master of Science in Nursing degree and was certified and licensed as a family nurse practitioner.

Since that time I have served in missions in Africa and the Middle East. I have needed to learn French and then Arabic, and once again have found that the excellent foundation I was given in the English language way back in my primary and secondary school years has been a great assistance in picking up other languages. I have most recently been serving among Syrian refugees, and the joy with which my Lord Jesus has filled my life now, and which I have the privilege of sharing with these needy people on a daily basis, makes me look back to those emotionally tumultuous teenage years and thank God for the people who invested in my life and helped me not to derail.

Distinguished members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, I urge you to support House Bill 339 and extend the help of the educational savings program to the families who have chosen the education of non chartered, non public schools, on the basis of the excellent opportunities they have to offer a different kind of school experience aimed toward a product of graduates who are solid in their academics and uniquely prepared to love and serve God and people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cyndi Grover

Lima, Ohio 45807