

Good afternoon, esteemed members of the committee.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak in strong support of HB 339, the Nonchartered ESA Program. My name is Michael Armbruster. I am both a proud graduate and the current administrator's assistant at Hametown Christian Academy, a small non-chartered non-public school in Norton that represents a critical niche in our educational ecosystem.

Our school curates a personalized learning experience that is meticulously tailored to meet the individual needs of each student – something that, due to their sheer size, larger and public schools often find challenging. This unique approach to education, which is also shared by homeschool co-ops and personal tutoring programs, highlight the necessity of alternative educational models in our system.

The enactment of the Nonchartered ESA Program would mark a significant step forward in recognizing the importance of educational choice, ensuring that no family's decision is limited by financial barriers. It champions the diversity of our educational landscape, acknowledging that each child's needs are unique, and that parents' worldviews should guide their choice of schooling without financial penalty .

We stand at a crossroads where our decisions can either open doors to innovative, customized educational experiences or continue to impose financial burdens that restrict choice and opportunity. History has shown us the value of alternative educational paths through the successes of luminaries such as Thomas Edison, Theodore Roosevelt, Albert Einstein and Mozart – all of whom benefited immensely from non-standard education.

Therefore, I respectfully urge this committee to consider three critical reasons to support the Nonchartered ESA Program.

**1. Individualized Education as a Right.** Personalized learning should not be a privilege but a fundamental right for every child, allowing them to be able to see and reach their full potential.

**2. Equality and Fairness in Educational Choice.** This bill represents a step towards leveling the playing field, granting all families the ability to choose the educational path that best aligns with their values and needs – free from financial constraints.

**3. The Untold Benefits for Our Children.** By supporting a variety of educational options, we enable our children to explore and excel in environments that best suit their individual learning styles and interests. The potential benefits of such tailored education are boundless.

The passage of this bill is about more than just educational principals; it is about fostering a future where success, fairness and equality are pillars of our educational system. I deeply believe in the transformative power of the Nonchartered ESA Program to elevate our children's educational experiences and outcomes.

I thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony. I am hopeful that my heart, reflecting both my personal journey and professional commitment, embolden the importance of this bill. Should there be any questions or further discussion needed, I am at your service.

Thank you again for your attention to this critical matter.