

HB 339 Proponent Testimony
Luke Macik, Headmaster
The Lyceum
2/13/24

My name is Luke Macik. I am the Headmaster of The Lyceum, a non-chartered, non-public school grades 6-12 in South Euclid, Ohio. I hold a *juris doctor* degree from the Univ. of Missouri–Kansas City and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from Thomas Aquinas College in California. Before becoming headmaster of The Lyceum, I was the Vice President of Wyoming Catholic College in Lander, WY. Prior to that I was in private practice in New Mexico and served as the insurance defense counsel for the Navajo Nation for fifteen years.

I am the father of nine children, seven of whom have graduated from The Lyceum. Four of these have graduated from college, and two are currently in college. Of those who have graduated from college, one is in the Army National Guard in Wyoming. Another is a 1st Lt. in the Marines, and his brother has just completed his service as a Marine captain as of yesterday.

The Lyceum, named after Aristotle’s school in ancient Greece, provides a classical Catholic education for grades 6-12. The Lyceum faculty all hold bachelor's degrees, several hold master's degrees, and another besides me has a *juris doctor* degree.

The education at the Lyceum would be similar to the education received by the nation’s founding fathers who had a formal education, which is about half of them. Lyceum students have six years of Latin and up to six years of Greek. Many of our graduates complete the study of mathematics through calculus. All students study biology, chemistry, and physics. Every student studies theology, the queen of the sciences, through studying the Bible, the Creed, some writings of the Fathers of the Church, and some works of the world’s greatest theologian, St. Thomas Aquinas.

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Our high school curriculum is based upon the study of the great books of Western Civilization. Besides reading original works in theology, our students read the *Magna Carta*, the *Federalist Papers*, the *Declaration of Independence*, and the *United States Constitution* in their American history class. In Roman history, they read *Plutarch's Lives of the Noble Romans*, and in Greek history, they read works by Herodotus and Thucydides. In literature, they read the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*. Some students are lucky enough to read selections of the *Odyssey* in Greek and the *Aeneid* in Latin. Other notable works read by Lyceum students include Sophocles' *Antigone*, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, *Beowulf*, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Dicken's *A Tale of Two Cities*, and, of course, many plays by William Shakespeare. Students study selections of Plato and Aristotle. They read Boethius' *Consolation of Philosophy*. One of my favorite works that all students of The Lyceum study is Euclid's *Elements of Geometry*, which has been the standard for all geometry texts for over two millennia. Among those who studied Euclid's *Elements* include John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln, Albert Einstein, and Sir Isaac Newton. Indeed, Einstein stated, "If Euclid failed to kindle your youthful enthusiasm, then you were not born to be a scientific thinker." All Lyceum students are involved in our drama program and perform Greek tragedies and Shakespearean comedies. They also sing in choir and learn Gregorian Chant and the sacred music of Palestrina and Mozart.

I shall end by simply telling you that The Lyceum was recently named the #2 school in the nation by the Classic Learning Test, a competitor to the SAT and ACT. Colleges and universities throughout the United States recruit our graduates who have received millions of dollars in college scholarships. Without government oversight, we provide an outstanding kind of education without which a free people and free society cannot exist. Providing an Educational

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Savings Account for parents to send their children to non-chartered, non-public schools like The Lyceum will only give parents in Ohio more choices and opportunities, and what could be wrong with that?

Thank you for your consideration,

Luke Macik