

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.

My name is Josiah Custer and I am currently employed by the Ohio State Highway Patrol as a Trooper at the Wooster Post. I was awarded the Ace Award in 2018 (five or more stolen vehicle recoveries in a year), Wooster Post Trooper of the Year in 2020, and the Criminal Patrol Award in 2022 (twelve or more felony arrests in one year). I have also trained three new troopers as their certified Field Training Officer (FTO) and I will be eligible for promotion to sergeant/assistant post commander in the coming weeks.

As a parent of a child who is currently enrolled in a non chartered non public school (NCPC), I was encouraged by the passage of HB 33 only to discover that NCPC schools were left out.

The NCNP school that I attended, my wife attended, my oldest son currently attends, and, by God's provision, my two younger children will attend, provides a superior education. I desire to provide all three of my children with that same quality education that I received. However, the tuition, though far below market value, will put financial strain on my family.

I am urging you to extend the educational savings program to parents of non chartered non public schools. The education that these students receive at NCNP schools will be an asset to my family and all the people of Ohio.

Thank you for your consideration.
Josiah Custer
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