

HB 339 Proponent Testimony

February 13th

Theodore R. Gherian

Greetings Chair Bird, Vice-Chair Fowler-Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, I am writing regarding my support of Ohio House Bill 339 of the 135th General Assembly entitled Establish the Nonchartered Educational Savings Account Program.

I urge you to approve this bill, which will provide funding for our private school, named Heritage Private School, Inc. (NC0385). I served on the board of Heritage Private School for over 5 years, serving two years as president. Our Parent/Student Handbook states, "The purpose of the school is to provide an education for our children in a God-honoring environment in the subjects mandated by law at an academic level equal to or above the public school system."

Our patrons willingly pay taxes to the state government and abide by laws. We navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, submitting to the guidance of the state by conducting school remotely, wearing masks once permitted to return, and being mindful of cleanliness.

I have seen the salary of our teachers and know that they are greatly underpaid for the work they do. I expect that our private school will endeavor to use the additional funds to provide a livable wage to our teachers and provide programs to support our students. Our teachers and staff would appreciate the support. Our patrons will appreciate that they can provide the atmosphere for educating students according to their faith and convictions.

Sincerely,

Theodore R. Gherian
Sterling, OH 44276