

## **HB 339 Proponent Testimony**

**Elisabeth Clark**

**2/13/24**

Chair Bird, Vice Chair Fowler-Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary & Secondary Education Committee, my name is Elisabeth Clark. I am the mom of three young boys, the oldest of whom attends a non-chartered, non-public school.

My son is 8 years old and in the second grade. He attended this school for preschool, then, due to tuition cost, went to the local public school for kindergarten and first grade. For his second grade year, at his own request when given the option of continuing at the public school or attending the non-chartered, non-public school, our son chose to attend the non-chartered, non-public school. My husband and I adjusted financially so that he could attend.

Since starting back at this school in the fall of 2023 for second grade, my son has been incredibly happy and has been excelling. My son requests to get to school as early as possible to play in the "big" room with his friends and even asks if I can pick him up late so he can spend more time at school. His attitude towards schoolwork has also improved. He is eager to do his best and works very hard. To date, he has received 100% on every spelling test this year. He recently asked me if he ever has to return to public school.

I am writing to ask you to help make it possible for him to stay in the school he loves, a non-chartered, non-public school, by supporting HB 339. This would make a huge difference for us financially and allow us to continue to send my son to the school where he is thriving and also send our younger sons there when the time comes. Please vote yes in support of HB 339.

Thank you.

Elisabeth Clark