

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.

I am the administrator of Temple Christian Academy, a non-charter, nonpublic school. I have served in this position for the past 13 years. It has been my joy to see the students of our school learn and overcome the challenges they face in learning. I am also thrilled when I see the alumni of our school with successful businesses, careers, and families.

But each year I watch as many of the parents of our students struggle to make the financial sacrifice to pay the tuition for their student's education. Even though they willingly choose to enroll their students in our school, it does not make the struggle any less difficult. Each year, our school assists several families with scholarships to make it possible for their students to attend.

The expansion of school choice last year through the EdChoice voucher program brought a new set of problems for some of our families. Several families in our school were receiving scholarships through the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund (NOSF). They were notified a few months ago that the scholarship would be closing due to the EdChoice expansion and the lack of need for it.

Please vote in favor of HB 339. There are many students in Ohio that would greatly benefit from this bill.

Thank you all for your service to our state.

Rick Ash