

Dear Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee:

My name is Nikki Hart. I'm a homeschooling mom of four with two children receiving Jon Peterson Scholarships for reading disabilities. They both work remotely with their tutors, so I strongly support HB440, which would reinstate online tutoring for the Jon Peterson Scholarship and Autism Scholarship.

My son, who has severe dyslexia, has been making remarkable progress in his reading abilities, all thanks to his dedicated tutor and the remote learning option. Their two-year journey has been a testament to the power of personalized, one-on-one instruction. His tutor's ability to adapt lessons to his unique needs has been instrumental in his progress. She's using a highly structured, systematic reading program with him, and without the remote learning option, we'd lose access to her since she lives an hour away from us, and he would lose so much progress and momentum.

My daughter, who qualified for an IEP this spring, has also experienced the benefits of the remote learning option. She worked with a tutor for the last two months of the school year, and this option allowed us to begin immediately without spending hours in the car each week driving to and from tutoring sessions. The comfort of working in a quiet, familiar place also significantly helped her focus on the lessons.

Allowing students with learning disabilities to access tutoring sessions virtually is critical. It is a lifeline for children facing medical limitations or residing in areas distant from providers. It bridges educational gaps and empowers families to navigate unique challenges, ensuring no child is left behind.

I urge you to reinstate the remote learning option for both of these scholarships so that my children and thousands of others can continue receiving the support they need.

Sincerely,
Nikki Hart