

To Those Concerned with HB 440:

Although I am not able to attend the hearing in person tomorrow for HB 440, I would like to share why I am asking for your support in reinstating online tutoring through the Jon Peterson Scholarship and Autism Scholarship.

I am a resident of Lewis Center, Ohio. I have three children whom my husband and I adopted, each of whom by the point they joined our family had already endured medical trauma that would impact their development throughout childhood, including through multiple learning differences that would make traditional educational approaches ineffective.

Now that our children are ages 7, 8, and 10, we are inundated with requirements for in-person appointments -- for vision therapy, for occupational therapy, for psychological therapy, and more that, due to the nature of treatment, can only be done physically face-to-face. These demands for being in many places at once, for being out of the house and making multiple transitions, add to the stress and struggle for my neurodivergent children with ADHD, dyslexia, and autism.

The only intervention we have been able to successfully implement without having to pack everyone up and divide and conquer as parents and leave the house yet again? Online academic tutoring made possible through the Jon Peterson and Autism Scholarships. For nearly three years, our family has worked hand-in-hand, Zoom-to-Zoom, with Orton-Gillingham-certified interventionist Jennifer Rigney of Alliance Intervention Services, whom I am also copying on this email. To say that this work has been life-changing for my children would be a gross understatement. My oldest child just completed his work with Jennifer because, with her help twice a week in online tutoring for several years, he is now ready to transition out of a hybrid-schooling setup to a full-time, in-person school experience in the fall.

I'm truly not sure that I would have been able to help my oldest dyslexic child learn to read with confidence and accuracy if it were not for the provision of online academic tutoring through his scholarship. I am deeply concerned that my other children may not have the same chance, and I urge you to please make it so that they do by reinstating access to online tutoring via the Jon Peterson and Autism Scholarships through HB 440.

Thank you, and please feel free to reach out if I can offer further information about our experience with this service or answer any questions.

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