

Good Afternoon Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee.

My name is Taija Meager. I am in the 8th grade. I am 13 years old. I go to Heritage Christian School. I am also blessed enough to also have a full scholarship that pays for my schooling. A lot of children are not able to get a scholarship to go to the school of their choice without having to pay from hundreds to thousands of dollars a year. Not all parents have the funds to be able to afford that kind of tuition, this is not including school trips and events which depending on the school you would have to pay an activity fee. As I stated before, not all parents and families can afford such fees and it has a tremendous effect on not only the students, who are not able to participate or go to the school of their choice, but also the parent or parents who strive to give their students the best education possible. Supporting this Bill can do just that. This is why I feel all students should be offered a free scholarship to go to the school of **their** choice. This is why you should approve Senate Bill 11. Attending Heritage has impacted my life because it has taught me many lessons and made sure that I am getting the proper education, strong foundation, and skills to become a successful young woman. Everybody should have an equal opportunity to reach the things they want to achieve in life. Without Senate Bill 11, students are not given the same opportunities with schooling. I feel like it belittles their dreams to be able to do something with their life or makes it harder to achieve for both the students and their parents. This is why I am asking you to support Senate Bill 11. Thank you all for your time. Are there any questions?