

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

My name is Melissa Calel Canto. I'm 11 years old and I am a 6th grader in heritage christian school. I am here to ask for your support for Senate Bill 11. School choice means to me having freedom because every student should have the right to pick any school they like. I am so grateful to have that ability to choose. Heritage has impacted my life by leading us in the right path of God. The teachers are nice and educated like my teacher. I met friends that are nice. I always had trouble making friends in school. I am happy being a student in Heritage. School choice means to me and my family having the ability to choose any type of school we like and what's best for me. I started going to school when I was 3 years old. I've been to two public schools, Schreiber and Gibbs elementary school and my first private school was Heritage Christian School. My experience has been kind of good and kind of bad because sometimes I don't even like the school that I go to but some school like Gibbs I really liked. I enjoyed going to Gibbs because I thought it was a good and healthy school but of course there were some problems with it like all schools have. School choice has made my experience better by letting me go to schools that me and my family like. I think that all students should have that ability because every child is unique and all children learn differently. We should all support scholarships for all students in Ohio because it will make their learning easier. Any questions?