

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

My name is Mhari Weir. I am an 8th grade student at Heritage Christian School and I am here to ask for your support for Senate Bill 11.

- Having a school choice has meant I could attend schools that are the best fit for me.
- Heritage has met my academic needs in a way that my public school district can not.
- Having school choice has given my family the ability to choose schools that are the best fit for me and not be stuck attending a school solely based on where we live. It is an opportunity I would not have had without school choice scholarships.
- I went to Canton Montessori School from age 3 to 6th grade. Without school choice I would have had to go to public school for K-6th. I received a great education at CMS where I benefited from small class size, multi age classrooms, encouraged independence, and a hands-on learning environment where I could work at my own pace. From K-6 I only had 3 teachers, all of whom were at the school for all my years of attendance. These teachers were able to really get to know me as a person and as a learner. A Montessori education has taught me to love learning and appreciate the world around me.
- I have attended Heritage Christian School for 7th and now 8th grade. At this school I have the academic support that I need. HCS staff encourage students to do their best and to be good people.
- All students should be able to go to schools that are right for them. The scholarships give educational opportunities to students that would not have it without them.