

Proponent Testimony - Senate Bill 11
Senate Education Committee
Senator Andrew Brenner
February 20, 2023

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chairman O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for holding a proponent testimony hearing today on Senate Bill 11, the Parent Educational Freedom Act.

My name is Sarah Koplen, and I am a mother of 2 children in the Olentangy Local School District. My daughter is now a Freshman at one of their four highschools, and my son is a 6th grader at one of their 5 middle schools, soon to be 6 middle schools. I have lived in Lewis Center since 2005 and I have watched the excessive growth in our community.

As our school district continues to expand to support the growth of our community, we have faced exponential costs in our property tax. This encompasses our income which we could use towards other options for our children. The absence of the *Parent Educational Freedom Act Bill* is forcing our children to stay in the public school district that *we live in*.

My understanding is that the current *EdChoice Bill* has been introduced for lower income families. However, I would like to add that everyone lives to their income means. Putting an income level limit on Ohio citizens is a form of discrimination. Every family has circumstances where their money might be already spoken for. Examples include, but not limited to, medical and hospital bills, a sudden loss in a job or with a spouse, and forms of financial and personal debt.

The *Parent Educational Freedom Act* gives all families the opportunity, no matter what their income is, to have their child attend a school that represents their family values.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony. I am unable to be present during this time of the hearing, but I hope you consider my words. I pray that God will give you the wisdom in your decision today and His will be done.

Sincerely,

Sarah E. Koplen