

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and Honorable Members of the House Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of strengthening and expanding education opportunity for Ohio families House Bill 96.

My name is Amy Conley, and I reside in Columbus Ohio in the Southwestern City School District.

We chose to send both of our children to Columbus Classical Academy, a non-chartered, nonpublic school, after researching our options because it is important to us that our children get the best education possible, especially in these formative years. Our children have been in the school system for over 9 years. We started in a public school, then moved to a public chartered school, back to a local public school, then homeschool and nothing was working well until we found Columbus Classical Academy. We chose Columbus Classical Academy because it aligns best with our values at home and the integrity we want to instill in our children to teach them to be productive, contributing members of society.

This school has made a significant difference in the way my children learn and has instilled a level of confidence and a love of learning that I have not seen in our previous school experiences. They ask me to go to school now, even on their days off. My children are learning more than I could have ever taught them as a homeschool Mom. My 6th grade daughter was behind about 2 years in math and has caught up in 6 months at CCA. My son who is in 8th grade has an incredible capacity to learn deep and meaningful things. Things that I could not have confidently instilled in him without the help of the administration and faculty at Columbus Classical Academy, in fact, he no longer needs a 504 plan or IEP because what he is getting at CCA is far better than anything we have been offered in any of our previous experiences. I could go on and on about the benefits we have seen but for the sake of time.

Local public schools in my district have failed my children in the past and my family should not be penalized for it. School choice should be expanded to include non-chartered, nonpublic schools because as a parent, I know my children and I should have the freedom to choose a school that works best for them and the money should follow them for their education. Educational savings accounts should be granted to Ohio families who know how and where their children will thrive. Giving accountability back to parents to make sound decisions for their children's education is the sensible thing to do for ALL Ohio families, not just a portion of them. Please don't leave out the hard-working families who are trying to raise the next generation of Doctor's, Teachers and even Legislators by not including them in this important decision.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on supporting education opportunity for Ohio families in House Bill 96. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.