

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 68, which would establish the Non-chartered Educational Savings Account Program in Ohio.

My name is James Miller and I reside at 306 Leighway Drive, Westerville, Ohio. I'm here today to acknowledge that while school choice was expanded in the last state operating budget cycle through the EdChoice Scholarship Program, there are still a significant amount of Ohio families who have been left out. My family is one of them.

Our two children attend Columbus Classical Academy (CCA) located on 2000 Polaris Parkway, Columbus, Ohio. Previously our two children ages 7 and 11 have been homeschooled. Due to unforeseen situations within the family, we were forced to enroll our children in an education program. Our choice to attend CCA was based on the quality of the curriculum offered and it was consistent with the homeschool education that they were receiving. The program focuses on fundamentals of a classical education, that is not offered by public/charter schools.

Both of our children are extremely capable academically. This program offered at CCA allows for them to continue on the same educational path they were experiencing being homeschooled. This made the transition for them seamless. Furthermore, it was so comforting to have options that allows our children to be educated in a manner consistent with our family values.

Our biggest challenge with offering our children the education that we wish for them to have is the tuition. We do not have the financial options of affordability that other families have as a result of the "type" of school where children are educated. We feel strongly that financial opportunities should be equal regardless of the classification of a particular school. The Non-chartered Education Savings Account Program would assist tremendously in aiding families such as ours with tuition.

I urge the Committee to favorably report Senate Bill 68 to make school choice truly universal in the Buckeye State. Knowing that the state operating budget cycle is the avenue for advancing bold, transformational public policy, I urge the legislature to bring the Non-chartered Education Savings Account Program to fruition during this decisive and impactful process. It would make a world of difference for a significant amount of Ohio families.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 68. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James S. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James S. Miller