

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

*As a graduate of Temple Christian School in Mansfield, I have been involved in education for the majority of my life. I now serve as Superintendent of Temple Christian and as president of Buckeye Christian School Organization. BCSO consists of app 15 "08" schools with app 1200 students. I believe our "08" schools are a fantastic option for some families.*

**Here are some important reasons for proponent testimony for SB 68.**

- 1) We are not asking (wanting) state permission to educate young people (which is what a charter or license is). (The state's legitimate interest is not control but an educated person. Self-regulation is better than state regulation, and "08" has worked well for forty years.)**
- 2) Our two other "non-negotiables" are testing and teacher requirements (those who write the tests determine the curriculum and those who decide teacher qualifications control the philosophy); we have agreed (in the "08" standards) to use teachers who have at least a bachelor's degree from a recognized college.**
- 3) Schools are not funded (in an acceptable NESAs program) but parents are funded and have the choice to spend their dollars where they see fit (as "food stamp" dollars may be spent wherever and not only at state-approved grocery stores). (Funding currently follows students whose families choose for them to attend public schools, admittedly often chosen by default.) Vouchers seem to have more of a "direct funding from the state to the school/church" than Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). so that is why we prefer ESAs.**
- 4) Our families pay taxes which support local public schools. Through the voucher program, our families now help support these chartered schools as well. Our families are then expected to pay tuition for their own child's education at the school that they feel best fits their child.**

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.