

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on the Senate's budget proposal.

My name is Lanie Montgomery. I reside in eastern Delaware County with my husband and five children.

I would like to express my disappointment that the Senate removed support for Educational Savings Accounts, as well as the \$1,500 income tax credit for families sending their children to nonchartered, nonpublic schools.

Education is extremely important to our family. So much so, that we decided to send our two youngest children to a private school that not only followed a rigorous curriculum but also reinforced the virtues we are trying to instill in our family. The school that aligned most closely with our needs happened to be nonchartered, nonpublic.

One of the misconceptions that people often share is that families that send their children to private schools can afford tuition. Sadly, this is not reality. Our family has made dramatic sacrifices to afford our children's education. We have depleted our savings, increased our debt, and picked up more work just to provide our children the education they deserve.

It is disheartening that the State of Ohio has decided that only some students are worthy of receiving State funding for their education, while other children receive nothing.

I would hope that the Senate would reevaluate its decision to eliminate all support for students attending nonchartered, nonpublic schools. I urge you to support all students in Ohio and include Educational Savings Accounts in the State's biennium budget.

Lanie Montgomery