

To Whom it may concern,

First of all, we want to thank you for the opportunity to express our thoughts and concerns regarding the many issues facing the educational system in Ohio, primarily the EdChoice Program. We are both native Cincinnatians and have three teenage children, including two high schoolers this year. We reside in Hamilton County in the Princeton City School District. In 2019-20, our district, while being "sub-par" for many years, was finally placed on the EdChoice designated school list. With those guidelines in place, we made decisions for the current year, as well as next year. Unfortunately, the changes published in March of this year have negatively impacted many families in Ohio, including ours.

In recent months, we have spoken to representatives at our children's schools, Ed Choice, as well as others. Recently, we have been in communication with Ohio House member Jessica Miranda. Last week, we were fortunate to have a zoom meeting with her regarding education in Ohio. Our discussion ranged from funding, changes made to EdChoice, and the over-all right for parents to have the ability to send their children to whatever school is the best choice. This includes all types of schools, not every school is a good fit and a positive learning environment for every child!

In conclusion, while we support school funding, we ask that the change made to the EdChoice eligibility requirements in 2020, particularly the school of attendance the previous year, be reconsidered. It is our hope that the Fair School Funding proposal does not discriminate against families who have children enrolled in private or parochial school in the previous year. As a taxpayer, it is frustrating that our designated schools, the ones we are supposed to send our children, are failing. As parents, it is our sole job to provide for our children, this includes finding the best education available. When we are faced with these decisions, we have done everything humanly possible, including making many sacrifices.

Thank you again for allowing us this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Lori and Tim Koetter