

May 5, 2021

Good afternoon Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony regarding H.B.110.

*My name is Mr. Yohana Hill. I am the Chief Advancement Officer for Tree of Life Christian Schools in Columbus, Ohio. I am providing testimony today because the EdChoice program is important to me and important to the future of our children in the State of Ohio. If I was in high school today, I would be a recipient of the EdChoice scholarship. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend an independent private school in the Cincinnati area from 10th through 12th grade after attending Cincinnati Public Schools K-9th grade. The school transfer changed my life, and those three years were the most impactful in my school career.*

*I believe that each child's educational path is different. I was the first person in my family to graduate from college and have since earned a Master's Degree. I had many friends that continued on to graduate from the same public school system. They have gone on to have very successful careers. Each child is different. I believe it is important for parents to have educational options for their children to maximize their full potential.*

*In addition, during the 11 years I have been employed at Tree of Life, I have had the pleasure of watching dozens of students who have received the EdChoice scholarship thrive at the school, in college and now into very productive careers.*

I am grateful for the Senate's past support of scholarship programs and would like to request that the Senate:

1. Continue to offer and fully fund scholarship programs.
2. Expand programs to meet the demand so no families are shut out of the opportunity.
3. Increase the value of the scholarships. It's been more than six years since scholarship amounts were increased.
4. Ask for the application process to be streamlined. Right now, it is taking months to receive notice after applications are submitted. Families often do not have a decision until several months into the school year, which is difficult on the family and the school.

Thank you for your time and this opportunity.