

Testimony Regarding H.B. 110
May 4, 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 my testimony regarding H.B.110.

My name is Courtnee Held. My husband, Kaleb, and I live in Orient Ohio with our three children. I have homeschooled our children for the past eleven years. Today, I am here to testify how School Choice is beneficial to my family.

Have you ever felt lost, felt out of place, or not at the right place? Our second child, Keegan, has been diagnosed with high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, and Dyslexia. Our son has to work two times harder than the average 16 yr old just to complete daily life skills. Although Keegan is high functioning, he would get lost in the public school system not only academically but socially too. Not being able to keep up with his peers would leave my bright son feeling stupid and incapable. Thankfully, school choice has provided Keegan with an education where he can shine and grow at his pace. He is in an environment where he feels safe to make mistakes and learn from them. Smaller class size is just one of the needs of Keegan that is provided by School Choice. Because we are able to put Keegan in the school that best fits his needs, he has surpassed many of the challenges that lie in his way. One size does not fit all, and it's essential to have children attend a school that works for them. Everybody is a genius. But if you judge and fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

I want to personally thank you, Senate, for your past support of the scholarship program. I would also like to urge you to continue to offer the fully funded scholarship in addition to increasing the value. It has been more than six years since the scholarship amounts have been increased. I would also like to ask you to consider expanding the programs to meet the demand, so no families are shut out of the opportunity.

Thank you Chair and members of the committee for this opportunity to offer my testimony.