

Dear House of Representatives,

To begin, let me point out how ironic it is that I, a mother of five children whose education I very much have their best interests at heart, cannot attend a meeting that could impact my children so very much. I am relying on the integrity of my representatives to allow my voice to be heard loud and clear. My children are all 7, 6, 4, 2, and 1. There is no way I can travel four hours to meet you on a school night.

I say this is ironic, too, because I know the union has deep pockets to pay people to come to be "voices of reason." I am well acquainted with the work of unions. I have several women in my family who were or are public school teachers, including my mother. I am a graduate of a public school system. I became a teacher myself in 2006, but I chose to teach in a private school. My intent for my children was homeschooling, but I found Trinity Lutheran of Toledo, OH, and I knew it was a good home for my children.

My parents raised me saying there were two absolutes to my earthly life. I must pay taxes, and I would die. I was taught that taxes were what helped our country run effectively. I have many opinions on public school, but I don't wish to make this about who is better. I simply EXPECT my country to support the right of every parent to choose the education that suits their child best. No child is the same, and every child responds differently to different approaches to education. Parents have the RIGHT to choose the emphasis of their child's education. To force middle income families into public schools due to financial hardship smacks deeply to me as taxation without representation, and didn't we fix that?

I urge you to vote for HB 200, allowing many families access to school choice. There are few things that fire me up like the education of my children, and I am a watchful voter. There are many who agree with me, and we tend to procreate prolifically because we have not bought into the schemes of population control. We vote, and we are raising future voters; so I urge you to vote for your constituents, not the unions. May God grant you wisdom. I will be watching.

Sincerely,

Tracey Colvin