

November 27, 2017

Dear Chair Brenner, Vice-Chair Slaby, and members of the Ohio House of Representatives Education and Career Readiness Committee,

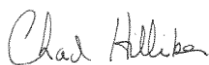
My name is Chad Hilliker and I am the assistant superintendent for Hamilton County Educational Service Center. We provide support for over 120 school districts in Ohio. I apologize that I am not able to provide testimony in person to oppose HB 200.

There are some reasons I believe HB 200 is problematic:

1. This bill allows nonpublic chartered schools to receive more state funding and **not** adhere to the same rules and regulations as public schools. If the nonpublic chartered schools receive more direct funding, they should have to follow all rules and regulations that are required of public schools in Ohio.
2. With a recommended threshold for scholarships at 400% of the federal poverty guideline (roughly \$98,500 for a family of four) most families would qualify for a scholarship. (\$51,409 was the median income in 2015 for our state.) Originally scholarships were for families that had little resources to pay for a private school education. The recommended threshold is excessive.
3. This bill would be an unnecessary burden on our tax payers, causing them to pay for people who can already afford private school tuition. Tax payers should not have to pay for scholarships for people who already have school choice.
4. The scholarships range from \$2,500-\$7,500 is more per pupil than most of the public school districts receive in Ohio. The \$7,500 scholarship is \$1,600 more than the basic per pupil amount.
5. Why would we allow families who get scholarships to put them into a savings account if the tuition is less than the scholarship? How is this fair to any public school student that would qualify for the scholarship, especially when schools are receiving far less funding than the amounts of the scholarships?

These are just a few of the issues I have with this bill. I encourage you to oppose HB 200 as presented. It does not need additional language.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad Hilliker
HCESC, Assistant Superintendent

Administrative Offices

11083 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

513.674.4200 (p) / 513.742.8339 (f)

Center for Early Learning Programs

924 Waycross Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45240

513.674.4200 (p) / 513.851.5747 (f)

The Learning Center at North Norwood

5017 Marion Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45212

513.396.5940 (p) / 513.396.5942 (f)