

Courtney Boulware HB11 Proponent Testimony for March 14, 2023

Good afternoon,

Thank you for allowing me to voice my support for HB11 today. Thank you also to Representatives McClain and John for your sponsorship of this important bill.

Our family made the decision to leave our public school district and enroll my son (and soon my daughter) in private school two years ago. Though this was a financial setback in many ways, we felt we had no option due to the direction our public school district had taken. This is our second year in private school and, much to our surprise, we ended up qualifying for Ed Choice this year. The difference this has made for our family is enormous and we want everyone to have this same opportunity.

Education funds should be set aside for students, not to uphold a certain system. By providing every student with an Educational Savings Account, parents will be able to assess each child's needs individually and determine what education option is best for them. They will be able to do this without worrying about how to make ends meet so that their children can be educated in a setting that best meets their needs and maximizes their potential. We have seen firsthand the difference this makes.

Parents deserve to have their tax money spent in a way that best serves their children's needs and every family, regardless of income, should have this option because as stated above, education funds should be set aside for students, not a particular system.

Thank you again to the committee for considering this bill and for listening to the voices of parents who only want what is best for their families.