

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 3/13/2023

Name: Taija Meager

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: Student

Address: 642 Smith Ave

City: Canton State: OH Zip: 44706

Best Contact Telephone: 330-452-8271 Email: tmeager27@heritagechristianschool.org

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): House Bill 11

Specific Issue: School Choice

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 2 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position: See attached.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Good afternoon Chair Bird, Vice Chair Fowler-Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee.

My name is Taija Meager. I am 13 years old and in the 8th grade. I go to Heritage Christian School because I'm blessed enough to have a full scholarship that pays for my schooling. A lot of children are not able to get a scholarship to go to the school of their choice without having to pay hundreds or thousands of dollars a year. Not all parents have the funds to be able to afford that kind of tuition, this is not including school trips and events that require extra activity fees.

Supporting this Bill will help all families allow their children to go to the school of their choice. I feel everybody should have an equal opportunity to reach the things they want to achieve in life. For me, it's important to be in a school where I can speak freely about God. For other students, they might not care about that but they might want a school with smaller class sizes or hands-on learning instead.

Without this Bill, all parents are not able to give their students the same range of opportunities for schooling. I feel like some students are limited in what they can dream because they're limited in choices that would fit them the best. Every school offers their own perks, for example some schools have early college and others have great sports. Then there are even schools that teach kids that don't want to attend college how to weld, be a carpenter, or even a mechanic. One school might not be able to offer your children what they might want in a school. What if you have a child that wants to go to college and the other doesn't? You would have to send your children to different schools so they could get the education of their choosing. This is only one example of how different children have different educational needs. In conclusion this is why I think school choice should be a right for all students. Thank you all for your time. Are there any questions?