

HB 339 Proponent Testimony

David Claggett

2/13/24

Chair Bird, Vice-Chair Fowler-Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for HB 339. My name is Dr. David Claggett and I firmly believe in the cause of non-chartered non-public schools. I am living proof that the education provided in this type of school is effective. I am a 2014 graduate of Licking County Christian Academy a non-chartered non-public school located in Heath, Ohio. I received an academic scholarship to The Ohio State University where I graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Immediately following, I moved to Davenport, Iowa to complete a three and half year doctorate degree. I graduated Cum Laude with my Doctor of Chiropractic Degree from the Palmer College of Chiropractic. I have since opened Genesis Chiropractic, a successful practice here in Pataskala, Ohio.

The foundation of all my education began in that private Christian school as it did for my seven siblings. My parents believed so strongly in the importance of private education that they had their children attend LCCA for 35 years straight! One of my siblings is still in that same Christian school and several others have gone on to be small business owners and entrepreneurs in different fields. As Americans, I believe we should have the freedom of educational choice. That's why HB 339 is so hugely important. It would enable us as parents to have that choice. I believe that in order to secure the future of our state as well as our nation, our children need to be educated in the best possible way. As a parent of a two year old, I definitely want to have the choice of educating him in whatever way we believe is best, whether that be private school, public school, or homeschool. As parents, we want the best for our children, but a lot of families cannot afford the added financial burden of paying tuition in addition to paying public school

HB 339 Proponent Testimony

David Claggett

2/13/24

taxes. As a result, many private, non-chartered schools are dying and with it, taking away the educational choice we need so much.

Having this choice encourages improvement in every type of education through the basic principle of competition. NCNP schools greatly contribute to the quality of education overall. If there is only one choice for education, there is no incentive for it to be the best it can be. This bill would allow a more level playing field so that all schools are pushed to be the best. Having different options for teachers and for schools provides that necessary stimulus for improvement. Because of the immense impact on our children's futures and the future of our nation, I fully support HB 339.

Thank you,

David Claggett