

My name is Lanie Montgomery. My husband and I, along with our five children, live in Sunbury, Ohio, which is in Delaware County. I was following House Bill 33 last year with hopes that it would include the school we were going to send our three youngest children to in the fall of 2023, Columbus Classical Academy (CCA). CCA is a non-chartered, non-public school that is in its inaugural year. This school has been an answered prayer for our family. Not only are my children flourishing at CCA, but they are getting an education that I only dreamed about for them. We are a typical, middle-class family and are thankful for the opportunity for them to attend CCA. Nonetheless, it is a financial sacrifice for our family. House Bill 339 would make a tremendous difference to us personally as well as to others like us throughout our entire state.

Many families are choosing to send their children to chartered schools due to monetary incentives created in HB 33, leaving non-chartered schools without a growing student body. CCA is the only school near our family that offers a rigorous and well-rounded classical education, so for us to go elsewhere is not feasible. Likewise, CCA is the only school in our vicinity that shares the same educational values as our family's. There are many more families who could attend CCA and take advantage of its quality curriculum and wonderful teachers. Many stand to greatly benefit from establishing Educational Savings Accounts. More children deserve to receive an education like the one mine are getting, but when some schools receive state support and others do not, it puts barriers between students and the education they deserve. It creates an unfair advantage to other schools. By not including non-chartered, non-public schools in House Bill 33, families benefiting from CCA, and other schools like it, have been wrongfully ignored.

I ask you to please correct this oversight. It is time to make the playing field fair and ensure better educational outcomes in Ohio by adopting House Bill 339.