

*February 13, 2024*

Chair Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and Honorable Members of the Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 339, which would establish the Nonchartered Educational Savings Account Program.

My name is Scott King, I live in Delaware County Ohio. I'm a father of 3. Two of my children have or will complete their primary education in our local public schools. My youngest child is currently a 5th grader in a Non-Chartered/Non-Public school here in Columbus. We have made the choice to send our daughter to a non-chartered/non-public school because of what we are seeing as a continued erosion in the quality of education in our public school system, especially in the core subjects of math, reading, science and writing.

While I am here today to urge you to support House Bill 339, which as you know would establish Educational Savings accounts for use with Non-Chartered and Non Public schools, I also feel as though I am really here to ask you to support something far more important; that being my right as a parent to choose the best form of education for my child.

While politically there are many things we may disagree on, I believe we can all agree that we would do almost anything for our children, including and most especially something that greatly shapes their future. Outside of our own influence within the family, the education of our children is instrumental in providing them with the greatest opportunities to have a prosperous future and a positive impact on society.

The current Universal School Choice program does not provide a mechanism for all parents to make these decisions. For many families, non-public or non-chartered schools are not a viable option due to the significant expense of tuition without any assistance from a public program like Universal School choice.

With your support of House Bill 339, you can provide parents like myself the ability to create the best possible future for our children by choosing from all the education options available.

I urge the members of this committee to vote on this bill as currently written.

Thank You