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Chairman Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson and distinguished members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to advocate for House Bill 339.

As a 1987 graduate of an "08" school and a parent of three children who have all graduated from the same school, I wanted to encourage you to pass HB339.

As president of Buckeye Christian School Organization, I represent approximately 18 small schools who educate approximately 1200 students. Many of these schools have been in existence for over 50 years.

As Ohio has opened school choice to more families, our families have been overlooked in this choice. Making this more difficult is the fact that families who would prefer our schools are leaving for schools that receives Ed Choice funding. This places the government in the role of picking and choosing winners and losers.

Our families are paying their taxes, which are used in part to help local public schools and are now also helping schools receiving Ed Choice funding. They are then being required to pay tuition to send their children to the school of their choice. As tax paying citizens, we are asking you to pass HB339.

While we know that there has been rigorous debate over school choice, the legislature has weighed in and perhaps inadvertently left out a small but vital component of school choice. HB 339 rectifies that omission and we ask for your support.

Pastor Robert J. Kurtz