



AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY – OHIO – OPPONENT TESTIMONY, HB 407 – OHIO HOUSE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 6.4.24.

Good afternoon Chair Manning, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee. My name is Donovan O’Neil and I’m the State Director for Americans for Prosperity – Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in as opponents to HB 407 – a bill that we believe is a misguided attempt to regulate private schools like public schools. AFP – Ohio has a history of advocating for the empowerment of families to seek out the best educational structure for their children.

We believe every child is different, and that all children deserve a menu of options – programs, services, courses, and schools that are designed to address their interests and aptitudes. Our vision for education is not to standardize children – it’s to allow every kid to discover, develop, and apply their talents to realize their full potential.

We were pleased to see the expanded access to the EdChoice Scholarship Program, and consequently skyrocketing demand for these scholarship dollars, passed in this general assembly’s budget cycle.

Despite the progress made for education freedom, we’re disappointed to see a slew of bills, including HB 407, take significant steps backward by proposing onerous regulations on private entities, which defeats the purpose of education freedom and choice. The proposed regulations in HB 407 are not dissimilar to regulations we see placed on public schools, which, again, defeats the purpose of education freedom and choice.

Proponents of the bill claim that these burdensome regulations should be put into place for accountability purposes, but, as other opponents have stated, every EdChoice provider is chartered by the state and must abide by [the same operating standards as public schools](#).

The [skyrocketing demand for EdChoice dollars](#) illustrates that Ohio families are dissatisfied with the status quo of education in Ohio. We believe parents provide the best accountability in the education space; not arduous governmental regulations that stifle educators in bureaucratic mandates as proposed in HB 407.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide our concerns on HB 407. Education freedom is one of our pillars in our Buckeye Blueprint agenda, and we will be issuing a key vote alert on the bill should it move out of committee and onto the floor. I’m happy to answer any questions and continue the conversation.

