

My name is Dr. Patricia Kellner and I am a retired family physician living in South Euclid, Ohio.

I attended public schools and value the experience I had there – to this day. The schools I attended were well-supported by my community and state – with class sizes of no more than 22 kids. That educational foundation took me to Yale for college and medical school and grounded me in my work as a physician. My teachers cared about me and loved their jobs. Today forces conspire to make it so only the wealthy will be able to avail themselves of a high quality education. Funding private education with public funds and cutting funding to public education only worsens public schools. Where the United States was once seen as the pinnacle in public education, we now are a backwater. Class size has increased, teacher salaries have not kept pace, and achievement has dropped. Free public education made America great, but tearing it down will only keep America from leading the world in curiosity, critical thinking, innovation, achievement, and quality of life. The vast majority of current charter and private schools do not come close to the high quality education public schools did and can provide for all. I urge support for robust funding of quality public education only and leadership by education professionals only.