



yes. every kid.
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Chair Dolan and esteemed members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of *yes. every kid.* *yes. every kid.* is an advocacy nonprofit whose purpose is to empower every family to customize an education that best matches their kid's unique abilities. While Ohio has made significant progress in expanding education freedom for some families, it is crucial to expand this freedom for every family and every child in the state.

We are pleased to see that the House budget has expanded the income cap for the EdChoice scholarship to 450% of FPL. However, to most meaningfully advance education freedom, we encourage you to consider creating a universal program that includes all Ohioans. Even with the current expansions to the House budget, many working-class families will still be unable to qualify for the EdChoice scholarship. Therefore, we urge you to include these families by incorporating Senate Bill 11 (The Parent Educational Freedom Act) or House Bill 11 (The Backpack Bill) both of which create universal choice programs and empower families to be the decision-makers in their children's education path. This would ensure that all Ohioan families, regardless of income, have access to the educational opportunities that best fit their child's needs.

Ohioans want options. *yes. every kid.* released the results of a poll conducted by WPA Intelligence on February 12. The poll was conducted across the state from Akron, Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton, and Youngstown to name a few locations. The results showed that Ohio voters support implementing an Education Savings

Account (ESA) program by a nearly five-to-one (5-1) margin, with 64% supporting and 13% opposing. Additionally, a majority of voters (74%) indicated support for education freedom, where parents, instead of the government, are allowed to choose the best school for their child.

The polling data suggests that there is a surge of support for entrusting parents with decision-making power, indicating a favorable shift in public opinion towards parental involvement in education. By empowering families with the education that meets their child's unique needs, rather than with a one-size-fits-all model, we dignify and empower every student with an education that treats them like they're one of a kind. It's time we demand a system free of arbitrary constraints—one built to accommodate children, not averages.

We look forward to partnering with the Senate and House, so all Ohio families get access to as many universal education options as possible.

Thank you.

Tiffany Barfield
Government Affairs Director
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