

Esteemed Committee members,

It has been nearly 9 years since I last testified in this building. On March 1, 2011, I stood before the Senate committee regarding SB 65 and spoke about why School Choice was important to me, my husband and my family. Once my education at the Ohio State University was completed, School Choice was a major factor in our family's decision to stay in Ohio, rather than to move closer to family, and not much has changed since then. I have just reached my 10 year anniversary as a Nurse Practitioner for CVS/MinuteClinic and my husband runs a local non-profit agency, where he began in 2009. EdChoice was one of the primary reasons we chose to establish roots in Ohio and it is certainly one of the primary reasons we remain. As members of a faith-based community, having the freedom to actively choose our children's schools is of paramount importance. EdChoice works for us and countless other families.

I am an employee at a publicly traded company with more than 1100 clinics in 33 states, plus D.C. I have many options – and there are certainly other states with better weather. Because of EdChoice, we CHOOSE Ohio. Because of EdChoice, the State of Ohio has benefited from our income, property and regional taxes, expenditures in the local economy and contributions to local non-profits over the last 10 years. Please ensure this opportunity continues for my own family, and for others, to encourage young professionals to settle in and contribute to the state of Ohio, as my husband and I have done, and hope to continue to do.

Thank you.

Aliza Finegold
House District 9