

**SUPPORT HB 939**

Good Afternoon Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

Why does school choice matter? Well, it needs to matter now more than ever! It needs to be an option moving forward even beyond the potential of next fall.

Why does it matter to me? Because my children need more, and so do the children of our communities. It is most apparent now with both the state and local BOE's not applying what is needed for our children. Parents know their children best, we are not asking for a babysitter when it comes to public schools, but we are looking to utilize the tool that is the public school system in the growth of our children.

Personally, my family will do everything possible to allow our children to grow, and our educational system needs to be an asset, not a roadblock.

I say this because as I look at my daughter, who is a duplicate of my wife both physically, but emotionally and educationally, I am concerned that she is missing so much from the public school system. My wife, as all of us have, is an angel, a blessing, and the best person I know. My wife has had some of the most horrible hurdles to navigate growing up, but she has prospered to become one of the smartest, strongest, and admired people that I know. The difficulties that my wife has endured, including with the public school system, has helped make her the person she is today. I see the same struggles that have been shared with me about my wife in my daughter now due to the forced virtual and hybrid school platforms. I know that my daughter will become the same strong person that my wife is today, and as a parent that makes me proud. Imagine if the roadblocks created by the school system can be removed, her ride to becoming smarter, stronger, and an admirable person of society can be greater. Knowing what was sacrificed for my wife to become the person she is today, and that the roadblocks are now mountains, without school choice, our children will fall further and further behind. Children need so much to grow, from education to athletics and extracurricular, discipline and accountability, emotional, and social skills. A one size fits all approach to meeting these needs will not be successful for our society as a whole and moving forward!

Please consider putting our children first because they are our future!

Thank you for reading my testimony today, and I urge you to support this legislation and look to expand it beyond next fall.

Josh Koziol

1106 Emerald Dr.

Bel Air, Md 21014