Good morning delegates and committee members,

My name is Princess, and I am a 7th grader who has had to face many challenges when it comes to attending school. I have medical conditions that prevents me from going to school in person, and I've been learning from home for my entire life. For me, virtual school was a lifeline, and I'm here today to tell you why it's so important to me and why it's crucial for kids like me who can't attend regular school due to medical conditions.

When the Montgomery Virtual Academy (MVA) was available, I was able to learn from home and still be part of a real school. I could take the same classes as my friends, do my assignments, and even join clubs and activities like debate team and creative writing. MVA gave me the chance to interact with teachers and classmates in a way that helped me feel connected to my school community, even though I couldn't be there in person.

But now, since MVA has been closed, I am stuck with Home and Hospital Teaching, where I only get a few hours of teaching each week. It's not enough. I can't get the full education that I deserve, and I know there are other kids like me who are missing out too. I don't get to go to school with our friends, I don't get to be part of extracurriculars, and I don't get the same support and attention that students in regular classrooms do. It feels like I'm being left behind, and it's really hard to watch.

Without virtual schooling, it feels like I'm being punished for something I can't control. I want to learn, I want to be part of a school, but my medical conditions makes that impossible. Virtual schooling was a way for me to get a good education without worrying about my health. I know that there are other kids who have health problems, live far away from school, or have other challenges, and they need virtual schooling too. It's not just a convenience, it's a necessity for so many of us.

I'm asking you to support HB0583 because it's not fair that I and so many other students, are stuck in this situation. Virtual school isn't just about having an option to learn, it's about giving every kid a chance to get a full education, no matter what obstacles they face. Without it, students like me are getting left behind, and that shouldn't be the case.

Please, help make sure that virtual education is available for kids like me who need it. I want to be able to learn, just like everyone else, and I believe that HB0583 is a way to make that happen.

Thank you for your time and for listening to my story. Please support HB0583 and help make education better for all kids like me.

Sincerely,
Princess