

RE: Senate Bill 362 - Primary and Secondary Virtual Schools - OPPOSE

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To Whom It May Concern,

Our daughter is a 7th grade student who participates in the ESMEC BVP. This program has been a tremendous help for my daughter. She had expressed some concerns about her safety and wellbeing in a school environment since the Pandemic. With the ESMEC BVP, she has been able to be comfortable and thrive in the comfort of her own home. This program has helped my daughter to become more independent. At first, I was a little worried about what she would do with only 20% synchronous live instruction time, but she did and continues to do AMAZING! She keeps up with all of her assignments. Turns all of her assignments in on time without any help from me or her father. Maintains an A average. She's a ROCKSTAR and we are so proud of her!!! This program has by far exceeded our expectations and we are very happy with the decision we made.

Another reason why we choose this program for our daughter is because our family is not like the average family. We have a special needs son who has a compromised immune system as well as Respiratory issues. The last thing we need is for our daughter to come into contact with someone at school who has Covid or been in close contact with someone who has Covid and bring it home to our family. My family can not afford to have this happen. This could potentially harm if not kill my son. And yes, I know you can catch Covid anywhere, but we have more control over who we let in our home versus who is in a school building. There is not a crowd of people in our home versus a hallway full of children or a bus full of children who may or may not have their masks on correctly or have a mask on at all. As we have seen, people are still sending their children to school sick, putting others in harm's way. Not realizing that some of these children as well as their family members may have underlying health issues that put them at a high risk. And as we all have seen and heard, **JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE VACCINATED DOES NOT MEAN YOU CAN NOT CATCH AND SPREAD COVID.**

So I really hope you take into consideration the things that I have mentioned in my testimony. We hear people saying, "The children are our future." Well, continue to let us, the PARENTS, decide what is best for our children and their future.

Sincerely,

Emmett & Towanda Tolliver