



February 3, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
568 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Leader John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Thune, and Leader Schumer:

We the undersigned represent the largest coalition ever assembled in support of a federal scholarship tax credit that would directly empower K-12 parents of up to two million students to choose the best school or education service for their own children.

We strongly support and urge Congress to include the Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA) – S.292/H.R.833 -- in any 2025 budget reconciliation bill.

The ECCA had 186 co-sponsors in the House and Senate in the 118th Congress – more support than any previous school choice bill at the federal level. Importantly, the ECCA is a tax bill that does not require any new federal money and does not reduce any current appropriations for K-12 education. In other words, the ECCA adds money for K-12 education in America through voluntary contributions. Up to \$10 billion in annual credits would be available to fund scholarships for students in lower- to middle-income families.

Under the ECCA, taxpayers would contribute to non-profit scholarship granting organizations across the country and would receive a 100 percent, non-refundable tax credit. Taxpayers cannot profit from these voluntary contributions and their net income does not change, as they are merely directing part of their tax liability to help families choose the best school fit for their children. As a result of these contributions, students in lower- to middle-income families would receive scholarships that can be used for tuition, tutoring to address learning loss, special needs services, education technology, on-line courses, or curriculum materials. The scholarships could benefit students in any type of K-12 educational setting chosen by parents.

Education freedom – that is, empowering K-12 families and teachers to choose the best educational environment for themselves—is sweeping the nation. Since 2020, more than half the states have created or expanded education freedom programs, including tax credit scholarships, education savings accounts, and directly funded scholarships. More than one million students are benefiting from such school choice laws in 32 states and Washington, D.C.

Congress now has the opportunity – indeed, the responsibility – to complement these states and facilitate educational opportunity and freedom in all states. More than 20 years of research into private school choice programs proves that students who are fortunate enough to participate are benefiting tremendously. Students enjoy high school graduation and college enrollment rates higher than their public school peers; students are less likely to commit crimes; students are more likely to be civic-minded; and the existence of school choice programs improves the performance of surrounding public schools. <https://www.edchoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2024-EdChoice-Study-Guide.pdf>

ECCA's core purpose is to ensure that every child has access to a great education and a productive life. It empowers families and teachers to find the best educational option based on their unique needs. It will cost-effectively help reverse the long decline in the performance of our school system. What matters most is ensuring that every child has access to a great education, that every child can be in a school or education setting that best meets their unique needs.

We urge Congress to include the ECCA, with \$10 billion in annual credits funded by individual and corporate donors, in any 2025 budget reconciliation bill.

Sincerely,

American Federation for Children
Invest in Education Coalition
Agudath Israel of America
National Catholic Education Association (NCEA)
Catholic Education Partners
Association of Christian Schools International
ACE Scholarships
CatholicVote
Center for Education Reform (CER)
Concerned Women for America
Children's Scholarship Fund
Defense of Freedom Institute
Family Policy Alliance
Foundation for Excellence in Education (ExcellinEd)
Heartland Institute
Heartland Impact
Natl. Assoc. of Private Catholic & Independent Schools (NAPCIS)
Parents Defending Education Action
Council for American Private Education (CAPE)
ACSI Children's Education Fund
Alabama Policy Institute
Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund (AOSF)
Scholarships for Kids – Alabama
Arizona Leadership Foundation
Arkansas Reform Alliance
Arkansas Parents for School Choice
California Association of Private School Organizations (CAPSO)
BASIC Fund – California
California Policy Center
Colorado Parent Advocacy Network
Parents Challenge – Colorado
The Schuck Initiatives – Colorado
Ready Colorado
Kids' Scholarship Fund – Connecticut
Caesar Rodney Institute - Delaware
Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Center Academy Schools – Florida
Georgia Center for Opportunity
Georgia Leadership Foundation
GeorgiaCAN
Idaho Family Policy Center
The Urban Center – Illinois
Illinois Coalition for Nonpublic Schools
Empower Illinois

Illinois Policy
Unique Learners Unite – Illinois
Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education
Hispanics Aligned for Choice in Education Reform (HACER) – Iowa
Kansas Family Voice
Commonwealth Educational Opportunities – Kentucky
EdChoice Kentucky
Commonwealth Policy Center – Kentucky
Louisiana Family Forum
LA Kids Matter – Louisiana
Maryland Council for American Private Education
Maryland Family Institute
Great Lakes Education Project (GLEP) Education Fund – Michigan
Parents Advocating for Choice in Education (PACE) – Michigan
Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools (MANS) – Michigan
Aim Higher Foundation – Minnesota
Opportunity for All Kids (OAK) – Minnesota
Empower Mississippi
Herzog Tomorrow Foundation – Missouri
Agudath Israel of Missouri
Montana Leadership Foundation
Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska (OSN)
Student Choice Fund of Nevada
Children's Scholarship Fund New Hampshire
Excellent Education for Everyone (E3) – New Jersey
Families for New York
Parents for Educational Freedom North Carolina (PEFNC)
CarolinaCAN- North Carolina
School Choice Ohio
Oklahoma Parents for Student Achievement
Cascade Policy Institute – Oregon
Education Freedom for Oregon
Commonwealth Foundation – Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Families for Education Choice
Palmetto Promise Institute – South Carolina
South Dakota Leadership Foundation
Latinos for Tennessee
TennesseeCAN
Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF)
Children First Education Fund – Utah
Middle Resolution Policy Foundation – Virginia
American Center for Transforming Education – Washington
School Choice Wisconsin
Hispanics for School Choice – Wisconsin