

SIR - You should read this.

Dear Member of Congress: 

I live in your district with my husband and two children. I am concerned that the local government school is dangerous and doesn't provide the education I want my children to have.

I want my children to receive a quality education. My children need a safe school where they can learn and then one day make a good home for their own families.

It's not too much to ask, is it? I just want my children to have the same opportunity for advancement that children from wealthy families have.

But I can't afford to send my children to non-government schools, as you and most of your colleagues can. You keep sending more of my tax money to government bureaucrats, but nothing ever changes. It's parents like me who really need the financial help.

That is why I recently joined Citizens for Educational Freedom, to fight for the right and the opportunity for parents to send their children to any school -- whether public, private or religious. Please vote for the recently proposed school choice bill on behalf of families like mine. America's children need your support, and parents need your help

Citizens for Educational Freedom

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Set America's children free!

What if all parents, regardless of family income, could afford to choose the best schools – public, private or religious – for their children?

What if "public education" meant ensuring that every child in America receives the very best education, whether through government or non-government schools?

Who would benefit?

Children would be released from "cookie cutter" approaches to education, which assume that every child has the same needs and will benefit from the same curriculum and methods of education.

Parents would have the freedom to choose their children's schools based on the special physical and emotional needs of each child, the family's religious and moral convictions, and the family's unique heritage.

Teachers would be able to form their own schools, teach according to their consciences, and escape the compulsory membership dues and pressures of the teachers' unions.

Principals could take control of their schools and compete for funds based upon their schools' success and appeal to parents.

Business leaders would regain confidence in American education and save millions of dollars in remedial education programs for their workers.

Taxpayers would save about one-half of the education tax dollars spent per child in public schools today.

"Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education which shall be given to their children."

***-- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
of the United Nations***

"Liberty...excludes any general power of the State to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only. The child is not the mere creature of the State."

-- Pierce v. Society of Sisters, U.S. Supreme Court

Why parental choice?

**Educational Freedom
means:**

Parental choice

***Equal treatment under
the law for all families***

***Fair competition
among schools***

***Improved quality
of education***

Taxpayer savings

Religious liberty

- ✓ All tax-paying citizens deserve equal treatment under the law. Why should "public education" be restricted to government-school students?
- ✓ Elementary and secondary education are the only publicly funded benefits that are restricted to government-controlled facilities. Food stamps are not limited to government grocery stores; Medicare payments are not limited to government hospitals; college students use government aid at any college or university, including religious institutions.
- ✓ Government-controlled schools currently enjoy a monopoly on public education funding. Monopolies cause expenses to increase and quality to decrease, as is evidenced by many of our nation's public schools.
- ✓ On average, private schools can educate children for about one-half the cost of today's public schools. Allowing children to attend private schools would greatly reduce the tax revenues needed for education. Competition would also cause public schools to cut their bureaucracies and other unnecessary expenses, creating a better public school system.
- ✓ Public schools that provide a quality education would not suffer under a system of parental choice. Only the inferior schools would go out of business, allowing children to escape from schools that fail to educate them. Parental choice is the last hope for the reform of public schools.

Put education back into the hands of PARENTS

Since 1959, Citizens for Educational Freedom (CEF) has led the nationwide effort to defend parental rights in education. Members in every state continue to call on their local, state and federal legislators to support parental choice and break the government monopoly on tax revenues for education. Citizens for Educational Freedom...

IS a national, nonprofit, nonsectarian corporation with headquarters just a few miles outside our nation's capital

OF citizens and supporting groups of every race, color, creed and political affiliation throughout the United States

TO promote the primary rights of parents with regard to freedom of choice, justice and quality in education, regardless of wealth, color or creed

BY allocating a fair share of educational tax dollars to each child to take to the school of the parents' choice, while protecting families and schools from undue government regulation and control.

CEF members receive...

... a free subscription to *Parents' Choice*, the bimonthly newsletter of the Educational Freedom Foundation. The newsletter informs members of efforts across the country to promote parental rights in education and provides useful information for members' activities.

... periodic updates on pending federal legislation and details on how to lobby your representatives.

... in states where CEF chapters exist, a subscription to the local chapter's newsletter and information on local developments.

CEF Chapters

CEF sponsors local chapters and state federations to unite citizens who are concerned with promoting quality education and increasing parental choice by:

Organizing individuals and groups with various skills and talents for more effective action and a unified voice within the community;

Lobbying state and local legislators for the fair distribution of educational tax dollars to all children regardless of wealth, race, color or creed;

Educating the general public about parental rights and the benefits of universal choice in education;

Networking with CEF's National Office and CEF chapters throughout the country to learn from the experiences of others and to share resources and ideas.

Only CEF provides the national reputation and experience of an organization that has been at the forefront of the education reform movement since 1959.

YES, I want to be a part of this exciting effort! Add my name to your mailing list immediately!

Please find enclosed my annual dues to CEF:

\$20 Individual

\$25 Family

\$100 Organization

Please send 10 copies of each issue of *Parents' Choice* (Organization members only)

Please send information on organizing a local chapter of CEF in my hometown

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Fax: _____ Internet/E-Mail: _____

(Send to: Citizens for Educational Freedom, 927 S. Walter Reed Dr., Suite One, Arlington, VA 22204)

Citizens for Educational Freedom

Since 1959, CEF has mobilized families nationwide in pursuit of the following goals:

Promote public awareness and legislation to support parents' primary and constitutionally guaranteed rights in education.

Demonstrate that quality in education will come only through the time-honored American principles of competition and the free market system.

Restrict government control and support family and local control of education.

Enable the poor and minorities, as well as the more affluent, to choose freely the education for their children that meets their individual needs and talents in keeping with parents' cultural and religious values.

Develop understanding of the full relation of the First Amendment to education: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

President Clinton made a choice.

Soon after moving into the White House in 1992, President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary enrolled their daughter in an expensive, religiously affiliated, private school. Here is what some people said about the decision -- one that most families cannot afford to make.

"I would not even begin to second guess what they did to try to do the best for their daughter."

Keith Geiger, National Education Association

"I'm pleased that the Clintons have found a school in Washington that will suit the needs of their child."

R. David Hall, School Board President

"Where the Clintons decide to send their daughter is a personal decision made by two concerned parents."

Ellen Shearer, American Federation of Teachers

"As a mother I understand the family's decision to act in the best interest of their child."

Sharon Pratt Kelly, Mayor of D.C.

Shouldn't all families have the same choice?



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Important information for your family