

October 9, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear President Trump, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, representing millions of Americans nationwide, thank you in Congress and in the administration for turning close attention to the students, parents, and families who are hurting due to lack of educational choice, especially so during this COVID-19 crisis. School closures are leaving the most vulnerable, underserved families and children of our country to fend for themselves, forcing them to make financial sacrifices to the detriment of their lives, all because government barriers to educational choice prevent access to alternatives.

Congress and the administration can help solve this education crisis and answer the cries from parents by putting any new or already-existing federal education funds directly in the hands of families, empowering them to choose the best option for their child and family. Thus far, the main responses from policymakers have focused on institutions, not families. As families scramble to find solutions that work for their individual circumstances, politicians should ensure children can continue learning in whatever way fits their unique needs. While well-intentioned, the school choice proposals previously put forth, including grants to states and tax credits, do not offer the real and immediate relief that families need now.

At such a time as this, bureaucracy and half-measures must be put aside and any relief, new or existing, should be funneled directly to families. Instead of channeling money into systems, parents need full access to funds that would allow them to seek out education for their children in alternative settings. Existing legislation in this vein includes Sen. Rand Paul's (R-Ky.) and Rep. Chip Roy's (R-Texas) SCHOOL Act, S. 4432 and H.R. 8054, for existing funds, as well as Section 2 of Sen. Ted Cruz's (R-Texas) Coronavirus Emergency Education Grants Act, S. 4505.

Importantly, the federal government can and should -- within its proper scope -- set a good example for states and localities on policy matters and on governance style. Funding students instead of systems would encourage those states and localities across our country to do the

same. While the landscape going forward legislatively is uncertain in terms of what packages or bills may come to the floor, this is largely irrelevant to the discussion at hand.

Champions of school choice should use their wisdom and political know-how to ensure that any further involvement of the federal government in education works for the good of parents and students, by answering the cry from families nationwide for true school choice: Dollars to families, not to systems, with as little bureaucracy as possible. We stand ready to help.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Adam Brandon
President
FreedomWorks

David Williams
President
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Lisa Nelson
CEO
ALEC Action

Patrick Purtill
Director of Legislative Affairs
Faith & Freedom Coalition

Cliff Maloney
President
Young Americans for Liberty

Brent Wm. Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer
Americans for Prosperity

State Organizations

James Taylor
President
Heartland Institute

Thomas Davis
President
Commonwealth Educational Opportunities

Aaron Baer
President
Citizens for Community Values

Averel Meden
Executive Director
Ohio Christian Education Network

Ronald M. Nate
Senior Fellow and Board Chairman
Madison Liberty Institute & Spark Freedom

Angela Humphries
Activist
North Carolina School Choice

State Legislators

Rep. David Eastman - Alaska

Rep. Mike Hill - Florida

Rep. Anthony Sabatini - Florida

Rep. Chad Christensen - Idaho

Rep. Jeff Shipley - Iowa

Rep. Julie Emerson - Louisiana

Rep. Dana Criswell - Mississippi

Rep. Cal Bahr - Minnesota

Rep. Alan Bershtein - New Hampshire

Rep. Jess Edwards - New Hampshire

Rep. Mike Sylvia - New Hampshire

Rep. Daniel Johnston - North Dakota

Sen. Nathan Dahm - Oklahoma

Rep. David Rowe - Pennsylvania

Del. Mark Cole - Virginia

State and Local Candidates

Adam Niemerg - Illinois (House)

Aaron Yates - Kentucky (House)

Felicia Rabourn - Kentucky (House)

Brian Seitz - Missouri (House)

RJ May - South Carolina (House)

Deborah Prickett - North Carolina (School Board)

Greg Hahn - North Carolina (School Board)