



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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American Taxpayer Group Favors School Choice in Colorado

WASHINGTON – Americans for Tax Reform, the nation’s leading taxpayer advocacy group, calls for the Colorado Supreme Court to rule in favor of school choice vouchers, giving parents the choice for their child to be adequately educated. Colorado Governor Bill Owens and state legislatures recently signed into law a pilot school choice voucher program, allotting vouchers to low-income students in Colorado’s lowest-performing schools in 11 districts.

“I don’t see any reason why taxpayers can’t use their own tax dollars to choose to send their kids to a school that actually teaches,” stated Grover Norquist, president of ATR. **“How much more money do taxpayers have to pour into this dark bureaucratic hole until we can obtain some quality in education?”**

Those who oppose the school choice vouchers argue that the local district should not be required to fund private schools over which they have no control. However, making education accountable to parents who have their child’s best interest in mind is far more effective than the bureaucratic domination over education, ATR advocates.

The market-oriented approach of school choice vouchers leads to an increase in the quality of education and a decrease of wasted tax dollars for education. The average tuition for all private elementary and secondary schools is \$3,116, while the cost per pupil in the average public school is \$6,857. A significant part of the funding for public schools gets trapped in the administrative bureaucracy. For example, in New York City, the nation’s largest school district, there are 6,000 administrators in the public schools while only 25 administrators are needed in the Catholic private schools that serve one-fourth of the number of students the public schools served.

“School choice vouchers put children and education at the forefront,” said Norquist. **“Parents should not be stripped of their freedom to choose a school that can adequately educate their child simply because the bureaucracy wants to cling onto our tax dollars while risking the education of our children.”**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or at jcollegio@atr.org.