

The Honorable [Name of Representative]
United States House of Representatives
[Office No. and Bldg.] House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

OR The Honorable [Name of Senator]
United States Senate
[Office No. and Bldg.] Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman [Name]:

OR Dear Senator [Name]:

As a member of [Name of Church/School], which is affiliated with the Old Dominion Association of Church Schools, I would like to urge you to oppose [S. 4297, H.R. 9289], the “Keep Public Funds in Public Schools Act.” This bill seeks to repeal the Education Freedom Tax Credit (EFTC), a historic provision that establishes a federal tax credit scholarship program that provides a tax credit to individuals who contribute to scholarship-granting organizations (SGO’s) that provide educational scholarships to students. **The program will significantly help families choose the education that best meets their children’s needs, and the measure is extremely popular—70% of school parents support their state’s participation in the EFTC.** ¹

The basis of the repeal effort appears to be the false notion that private donations to an SGO are “public funds” or “public tuition assistance.” The U.S. Supreme Court is already on record as disagreeing with that fallacy. In the 2011 case *Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization v. Winn*,² which challenged the Arizona tax credit model School Choice program on Establishment Clause grounds, the U.S. Supreme Court found that the plaintiffs lacked standing because the program was funded with private donations. Additionally, the court found that the “[r]espondents’ contrary position – that Arizonans benefiting from the tax credit in effect are paying their state income tax to STO’s – assumes that all income is government property, even if it has not come into the tax collector’s hands. That premise finds no basis in standing jurisprudence.”²

The title of the bill also seeks to promulgate the false idea that the EFTC will take money away from public schools. ODACS maintains that our schools save the taxpayers a great deal of money by operating with private dollars and by operating much more frugally than do public schools.

The EFTC represents a wonderful opportunity to increase educational freedom and choice by giving parents much-needed private financial assistance. Please do the right thing by opposing [S. 4297, H.R. 9289], which seeks to empower the government with respect to the rearing of our children, rather than empowering parents.

Thank you for your service to Virginia and to our country and for considering our request.

Sincerely,

[Your signature]
[Your Name, Title]

¹ Alli Aldis, “The Federal School Choice Program is Popular,” EdChoice, March 19, 2026, <https://www.edchoice.org/2026-the-federal-school-choice-program-is-popular/>.

² <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/563/125/>