

[Date]

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 want to express my gratitude to Congress for the school choice provision included in H.R. 1. This historic provision establishes a federal tax credit scholarship program that provides a tax credit to individuals who contribute to scholarship granting organizations that provide educational scholarships to students. The program will significantly help families choose the education that best meets their children's needs.

Most families in our schools make great sacrifices so their children can have a Christian education. It is a myth that all families that choose a private education are wealthy; the majority of families that choose a Christian education are low- to middle-income families. These families are already paying taxes to support government education as well as making sacrifices to afford a Christian education. The new program will provide financial relief to these families and will provide new School Choice opportunities to low-income families.

The school choice program is a 100% nonrefundable tax credit for individuals who donate up to \$1,700 to an SGO. The SGO must use 90% of its income for scholarships to 10 or more students at various schools. Students can use those scholarships for a variety of educational needs including private school tuition, tutoring, curriculum, technology costs, and supplemental educational needs. The SGO must be recognized by the governor of the state where the scholarship students live. In other words, governors must choose to opt in to participate in the program for students in that state to receive a scholarship. The Treasury Department will run the program and write the appropriate regulations.

I urge Congress to advocate at both the federal and state level for the program's success. Congress should ensure that the Treasury regulations protect the SGO's and schools in the program. By maintaining the autonomy guaranteed in the First Amendment and in Supreme Court precedents, SGO's and schools can provide the educational options that parents seek. The regulations should also ensure governors are not allowed to play politics with the federal program by adding to the law's requirements. Governors should be limited to a simple recognition of federally qualified SGO's. Members of Congress should also urge their governors and state legislators to opt into the program and to provide increased choice to the students in their state. Thank you for your consideration, for your service to Virginia, and for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]