

For Immediate Release

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**The National Coalition for Public Education's Statement on
Reauthorizing the DC Voucher Program through the Continuing Resolution**

The National Coalition for Public Education (NCPE) is extremely disappointed that the spending bill renews the failing D.C. voucher program. Just last week, the U.S. Department of Education released a study showing students in the program perform worse academically; yet, without the opportunity for a full debate, Congress added the program to the spending bill. Unhappy with the study results, Congress also inserted language to undermine future research by requiring the Department to use "quasi-experimental" study methods rather than discontinue the flawed program.

This will be yet another feather in the cap of the Trump/DeVos administration, whose priority has been to privatize education funds regardless of who it hurts or who it benefits. Public dollars should fund public schools that serve all students, not private schools that lack the same accountability standards and civil rights protections for students.

Founded in 1978, the National Coalition for Public Education supports public schools and opposes the funneling of public money to private and religious schools through vouchers, tuition tax credits, education savings accounts, and portability. For more information, contact Maggie Garrett (garrett@au.org or 202-898-2140) or Sasha Pudelski (spudelski@aasa.org or 703-8773-6933).