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National Coalition for Public Education Denounces New Federal Private School Voucher Program

Today, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, along with U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-Ala.), announced a proposal to create a new federal private school voucher program. The proposal would create a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for individuals and corporations contributing to organizations set up to provide vouchers for students to attend private schools.

The National Coalition for Public Education (NCPE) issued the following statement in opposition to the proposal:

“Public schools serve 90 percent of American children; therefore, taxpayer dollars should fund those schools, not private, often religious schools.

“Tax-credit programs nationwide have been found to have the same problems inherent to all voucher programs: They do not provide better educational opportunities for students or improve academic achievement. And, even more so than traditional voucher programs, they are especially susceptible to accountability problems – inviting additional waste, fraud and abuse.

“Similar federal tax credit voucher proposals have been derided by both supporters of public education and supporters of local control. If Secretary DeVos truly wants to improve education for students across the country, the solution is to fund our public schools rather than diverting taxpayer dollars to private schools.”

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.