



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **National Coalition for Public Education Denounces Inclusion of National Private School Voucher Program in Republican Tax Bill**

Today, the House Ways & Means Committee introduced a \$20 billion national school voucher program in their "mega bill." If this bill becomes law, vouchers for private schools would be federally mandated in every state in America, despite the fact these programs have been rejected at the state level each time they've been on the ballot – a total of seventeen times.

Vouchers divert critical funds from public schools, which 90% of American families choose for their children to attend. The monies for private schools would not be fiscally accountable under the new voucher proposal or bound by key provisions of the federal civil rights law, which is required by our public school system.

In addition, the voucher program creates a first-of-its-kind tax shelter. The federal government will give a dollar-for-dollar tax credit, allowing payments for children to be homeschooled or attend private school to be bundled, ensuring it becomes a \$20 billion tax credit voucher program. This was not done previously with any other 501 c3 donation in our history.

New data from Oklahoma's school voucher program [released last week](#) found that 91% of students using a voucher were already in private schools. If replicated nationwide, the majority of tax dollars for vouchers will be used by those who already send their children to private school. Research out of Louisiana, Indiana and Ohio has shown that students who use vouchers perform worse academically than their public-school peers.

America cannot afford to fund a secondary, private education system that picks and chooses what American children are served. America's public schools educate all students, in every community regardless of their ability, background, income level or any other criteria that could be the basis of discrimination.

Public schools are a cornerstone of American democracy. We will continue to do everything we can to fight the private school voucher program and ensure public dollars remain in public schools, so every child has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.



The **National Coalition for Public Education** comprises more than 50 education, civic, civil rights, and religious organizations devoted to the support of public schools. Founded in 1978, NCPE opposes the funnelling of public money to private and religious schools through such mechanisms as tuition tax credits and vouchers.