

[Date]

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

The Honorable [Name of Senator]
United States Senate
[Office No. and Bldg.] Senate
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 support for the Educational Choice for Children Act (H.R. 531 and S. 120). The ECCA would provide a federal tax credit to individuals and to corporations that donate to a nonprofit scholarship granting organization (SGO).

We believe that the ECCA includes several important benefits. First, it would foster freedom of choice in education by creating options for low- and middle-income families. Second, it would protect the autonomy of private and religious schools. Since funds are distributed by SGO's and not by the government, the potential for church-state entanglement is minimized, and First Amendment Free Exercise rights are protected. Third, the ECCA incentivizes private sector donations in order to assist low-income students who are most in need of different educational options. Additionally, the ECCA protects the autonomy of SGO's by including excellent language prohibiting government control, thus leaving SGO's, schools, and families free to pursue an education that is consistent with their own deeply held religious beliefs.

While families who enroll their children in our schools are diverse, most of our students come from middle- to lower middle-income homes, and their enrollment in our schools reflects their parents' commitment to their children's education. However, the commitment of these parents places a heavy financial burden on their families, which often includes great sacrifice on their part. A scholarship tax-credit program could lighten the financial burden on these families.

Our request is that you would support the ECCA by cosponsoring it and hopefully by voting Yes should the bill reach the floor.

Thank you for your service in the Congress and for considering our opinion.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]