



Date: March 27, 2026

To: The Honorable Governor Gretchen Whitmer

From: Council of Organizations and Others for Education About Parochial Aid (CAP)

RE: Educational Choice for Children Act/ Federal Education Freedom Tax Credit

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The Council About Parochial Aid (CAP) is a coalition of education, child advocacy, faith based, civic liberty organizations, as well as concerned citizens supporting the constitutional guarantee of a free public education for all Michigan children. CAP was founded in the 1970s with a mission of educating the public of the risks of granting governmental aid to nonpublic schools in Michigan and is a strong supporter of public education. We believe it is essential to a free society and the well-being of all citizens, regardless of economic status or religious beliefs. CAP strongly believes that public tax dollars should be used for public schools.

We are writing to you today urging the Governor to decline to opt Michigan into the Education Freedom Tax Credit, which proposes a national voucher program that would redirect an indeterminate amount of funds from public to private schools. Not only is this proposal financially irresponsible and lacks transparency, but it will also create major winners and losers in education systems across our state. There are many issues with voucher programs, including:

- Private schools can limit their enrollment based on their criteria and have been known in other states with voucher programs to then raise their tuition to match the voucher
- Students with disabilities attending a private school with a voucher would not necessarily receive all of the special education and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) services they would otherwise receive in a public school
- Many students in rural areas don't have access to a private school within five miles of their home
- Voucher programs often harm the most vulnerable student populations, the economically disadvantaged students and children with special needs
- Voucher programs divert millions of dollars out of our public-school classrooms that could be used for supporting our teachers and students
- Research has shown that vouchers have not increased student achievement compared to students attending traditional public schools



Michigan has a very clear constitutional provision banning the use of state tax dollars for private and religious schools. Since these are federal tax dollars being allocated to private and religious schools, our state constitution will not protect against the negative impacts of any federal voucher program. Time and time again, Michigan voters have rejected any voucher proposals in our state. As the federal voucher deadline becomes more imminent, we strongly urge you to decline the Education Freedom Tax Credit to protect public education and the children and families of Michigan.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact CAP President, Lois Lofton-Doniver, 517-730-1232, for more information.

Current CAP Member Organizations:

American Federation of Teachers-MI (AFT-MI)
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators (MASA)
Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB)
Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)
Michigan Education Association (MEA)
Michigan Elementary & Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA)
Michigan Alliance for Student Opportunity (MASO)
National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)
League of Women Voters of Michigan (LWV-MI)