

To: Council of Catholic Superintendents  
Government Program Coordinators  
Knights of Columbus Leadership  
Public Policy Committee

From: George V. Corwell, Ed.D  
Director, Office of Education

Date: February 13, 2025

Re: Federal School Choice Bill

Attached is an Action Alert the Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA), a federal school choice bill. The bill passed out of a House committee last year has been reintroduced on Capitol Hill with genuine prospects for success. The bill is based on tax credit scholarship programs that have had success in many states. Under the bill, private and corporate donors will contribute to a scholarship granting organization, which would then use those privately donated funds to give scholarships to low- and middle-income families for private school tuition. The federal government would then give a tax credit to the donor. Congressional leadership is supportive of this legislation, and President Trump said he would support the bill.

The legislation currently has 28 sponsors/co-sponsors in the Senate and 41 sponsors/co-sponsors in the House. All are Republicans, and none are from New Jersey, so we have a great deal of work to do.

Included with the Action Alert will be a one-page summary of the bill and USCCB's official response to the introduction of the bill, which includes a letter of support written by Bishop David O'Connell who is Chair of the Committee on Catholic Education of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, and contact lists for the members of Congress. Please note the section of Bishop O'Connell's letter which refers to "Blaine Amendments," which do not affect New Jersey. New Jersey is NOT a Blaine Amendment state.

We ask you to distribute this Alert to your schools and parishes and ask that they, in turn, distribute it widely among the parents and supporters. The ask is that the New Jersey members of Congress sign on as co-sponsors for the bill and also to support the respective bills when they come up in either a committee hearing or for a vote in the full House or Senate.

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*Emailed Communication*