

Omaha NAACP, League of Women Voters Greater Omaha, and National Council of Negro Women Strongly Opposes Scholarship Tax Credits
LB 753: Opportunity for whom?

Too often, supporters of school privatization misappropriate the language of the civil rights movement and propagate misinformation about who will benefit from scholarship tax credit programs and other voucher proposals. Since the 1970s, the NAACP has had grave concerns about these policies - concerns which have, unfortunately, been realized and confirmed by decades of research.

The Omaha NAACP and its partners listed above join the vast majority of Nebraskans calling on elected leaders to prioritize fully funding, staffing, and supporting high-quality, free public schools. The privatization of Nebraska's education system poses a substantial threat to the ongoing improvement, development, and stability of our community's already chronically under-funded and -resourced schools.

The dollar-for-dollar tax credit in LB 753 is a more generous incentive for Nebraska's wealthiest individuals and businesses than for any other kind of charitable giving. However, the corresponding loss in revenue will further shift the tax burden on to working families and make it more difficult for legislators to fund critical public services.

Perhaps worst of all, LB 753 diverts much-needed dollars - more than \$600 million by 2034 - to unaccountable private institutions without protecting students, parents, teachers, and staff from discriminatory policies and practices.

Community Members: Join this fight before it's too late for our schools, our communities, and our kids. Join this letter-writing campaign, and ask your State Senator to vote NO on LB 753. You can locate your State Senator at https://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_find.php You can use the information provided in this document for your letter.

- The evidence is clear: Scholarship tax credits and other voucher proposals do not improve academic outcomes. Worse, many studies have found significant negative effects on student performance with some transfer students faring far worse than their public school peers - the equivalent of missing more than a third of a year of classroom instruction.
- Supporters of LB 753 paint a different picture, but in other states, scholarship recipients are not low-income, Black and Brown students transferring out of struggling public schools and into top-tier private academies. Instead of promoting equal educational opportunities, LB 753

fails to eliminate many barriers to private education, including the affordability of private tuition. Households earning as much as \$166,000 a year will be eligible to receive a scholarship. By subsidizing this, it further segregates marginalized kids in facilities with fewer resources and opportunities.

- Two-thirds of students in Louisiana's voucher system attend private schools rated "D" or "F" under the state's assessment system. In Georgia and elsewhere, millions of scholarship dollars have been distributed to affluent white students already attending private schools.
- Unlike public schools, private and parochial schools can - and very often do - discriminate based on religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability, special education needs, or any other characteristic found "undesirable."