



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

February 5, 2002

**EXPAND EDUCATION CHOICE FOR PARENTS WITH
CHILDREN IN FAILING SCHOOLS**
Support the President's Education Tax Credit

Dear GOP Colleague:

We are writing in strong support of the education tax credit proposed by President Bush in his FY 2003 Budget.

We support the President's proposal because we believe America should be a land of equal educational opportunity. Regardless of income or other factors, parents with children in chronically failing schools should be able to choose the best school possible for their children. Low-income parents in disadvantaged communities with failing schools should have the same education choices that affluent parents have. Giving all parents this choice will broaden the escape route for students trapped in failing schools. It will also energize the public education system and spur struggling schools to succeed.

The President's proposed education tax credit would build on last year's bipartisan education reforms and help to ensure that no child is left behind. It would make up to \$2,500 available for parents with children in failing schools to use for tuition, books, computers, and other uses to enhance their children's education. For low-income parents, it could mean the difference between keeping a child trapped in a failing school that refuses to change, or sending a child to a better-achieving school that offers hope.

In the hands of caring parents, information and choice are powerful tools for education reform. Congress should build on last year's bipartisan effort by taking further action in 2002 to expand education choice for parents with children trapped in chronically failing schools.

Sincerely,

/s/
John Boehner (R-OH)
Chairman
Education & the
Workforce Committee

/s/
J.C. Watts (R-OK)
Chairman
House Republican Conference

/s/
Pete Hoekstra (R-MI)
Chairman
Select Education Subcommittee

/s/
Phil Crane (R-IL)
Member of Congress

/s/
Jim DeMint (R-SC)
Member of Congress

/s/
Ernie Fletcher (R-KY)
Member of Congress

/s/
Lindsey Graham (R-SC)
Member of Congress

/s/
Van Hilleary (R-TN)
Member of Congress

/s/
Tom Petri (R-WI)
Member of Congress

/s/
Bob Schaffer (R-CO)
Member of Congress

/s/
Mark Souder (R-IN)
Member of Congress

/s/
Tom Tancredo (R-CO)
Member of Congress

/s/
Fred Upton (R-MI)
Member of Congress

/s/
Curt Weldon (R-PA)
Member of Congress