

Tax relief: Giving parents freedom, choices

H.R. 282, the Education Freedom Act

Wouldn't it be nice if we could change our tax laws to invest directly in our nation's children? Wouldn't it be nice if we could invest two dollars in the education system for our kids tomorrow for every one dollar we pay into the education bureaucracy today? If you think we should invest in education rather than more red tape, then H.R. 282 is the answer. H.R. 282, the Education Freedom Act, would allow for a 50 percent tax credit for donations by individuals and businesses to public and private schools or scholarship organizations.

Last year, with the help of many of his colleagues, Congressman Bob Schaffer introduced an education bill intended to reduce financial barriers to improving educational opportunities for children. Like Mr. Schaffer's bill, H.R. 282 allows individuals to claim a tax credit, not to exceed \$250, for contributions to qualified educational providers, including public and private schools.

Private scholarship organizations are springing up throughout the nation. These organizations have helped more than 100,000 needy children attend private schools chosen by their parents. Scholarship organizations have also helped families shoulder additional educational expenses, including uniforms, tutoring, special needs services, technology, books, classroom supplies and other educational fees. According to Children First America, more than 1.2 million families have inquired about tuition aid. The Education Freedom Act would have a tremendous effect on the ability of parents to provide the best education for their children, especially those who could not otherwise afford to send their children to a school of their choice.

The fact is that more parents want to provide the best education possible for their children. H.R. 282 would tap general fund revenues to help cover a family's educational costs for K-12 education, expanding current law that allows deductions for higher education expenses.

Parents know best what their children need to succeed. Please support our efforts to increase educational freedom for kids throughout the nation. **If you would like more information on this legislation, or wish to become a cosponsor of H.R. 282, please call Rebecca Hunt in Rep. Hoekstra's office (5-4401), Emily Porter in Rep. Tancredo's office (6-6995), or Andrew Coats in Rep. Souder's office (5-4436).**

Sincerely,

Pete Hoekstra
Member of Congress

Tom Tancredo
Member of Congress

Mark Souder
Member of Congress