

# School Choice News



Volume 48, Number 1

Published by Citizens for Educational Freedom

April 2009

498 Woods Mill Road, Manchester, MO 63011 • [www.educational-freedom.org](http://www.educational-freedom.org) • Ph: 636-686-7101, Fax: 636-686-7173

## No Education “Stimulus Money” for Private School Children

Let your Congressmen and Senators know that you are outraged at the discrimination in the Stimulus Grab Bag passed by Congress and signed by President Obama. The Obama Congress actually has billions of dollars (over \$100 Billion) earmarked for public schools only...with a clause that expressly prohibits any money from going to help students attending private schools which are now saving the taxpayers billions and also providing a quality education for the children.

Since 1965, the public policy of the federal government in allocating education money for our school children has been on an equal basis for both private and public students. President Obama and the Democratic Congress have chosen to violate this federal law. His “stimulus” bill specifically denies any federal-aid to private or religious school children - while giving out tax money to public schools only. Of course, this is his payoff to the NEA which backed him for president. Now, responsible, fair-minded citizens, who care about their children’s education and future, must demand equal rights for all school children.

Write, call or use the internet to protest this “Hate Law” to the President and your Congressman or Senator.

ACT NOW....LET THE CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT OBAMA know that  
we want equality and justice for all our school children

BE SURE TO CONTACT PRESIDENT OBAMA TO LET HIM KNOW YOU ARE OUTRAGED AT HIM FOR SIGNING THIS SHAMEFUL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST OUR POOR PRIVATE SCHOOL CHILDREN. His address is  
The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500,  
Comments: 202-456-1111, Switchboard: 202-456-1414, FAX: 202-456-2461

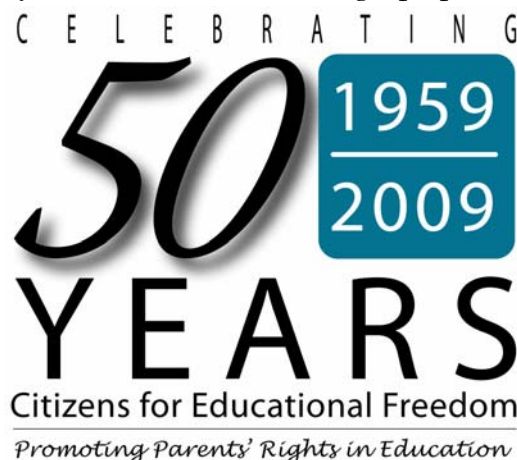
## CEF TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Citizens for Educational Freedom, your pioneer school choice organization, founded in 1959, will celebrate its 50th Anniversary this year in 2009!

Fifty years ago it was Citizens for Educational Freedom that stood alone against the National Education Association’s first federal aid to education bill: The Murray-Metcalf Act. It was so discriminatory that it actually counted all the children of school age AND then COUNTED OUT THE SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS. When the money was given out through the states, their money was added to the public schools millions. Well, CEF founders...just eight of us, said: “No Way!” We actually held off the NEA with its millions of dollars for six years. We started out with eight people and \$40.00. Then we managed to pass the ESEA of 1965 which clearly states that all children, both private and public shall be treated equally in benefits from federal aid to education.

When the fight began in 1959, Eisenhower was President but in 1961, John F. Kennedy took office. He opposed equal rights in education and gave his full support to the Murray-Metcalf Bill. So CEF went grassroots to private school parents - nationwide. We said, “They are cheating your children. This bill counts them in and counts them out!”

Probably the most effective action that CEF used against the NEA’s federal aid bill was our postcard campaign. CEF printed a half million (500,000) Teachers’ Pet postcards to send to Congress and President Kennedy. As the postcards came off the press, we addressed the first one to President John F. Kennedy. We flooded Congress with the rest. Nationwide our grassroots supporters rushed them off to the Senators and Congressmen. CEF held off the \$2,000,000 NEA lobby for discriminatory federal aid for six years. Finally, under President Johnson, the ESEA, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, was passed in 1965. The bill mandated equal education benefits (aid) to all school children private and public. Sadly, the administration of the program was given to the public school bureaucrats who found ways to cheat the private school children. Yet, the equal benefit clause of the ESEA is still in effect as the federal education policy.





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Editorial

## G.I. "JR" BILL FOR EDUCATION "STIMULUS"

More than \$100 billion of the \$787 billion "stimulus" bill is to go for education. Sadly all of the education tax money goes to the public school - not one penny to help private school children. In fact the Stimulus Bill specifically states that no money shall be used to help parochial or other private school children.

Unfortunately, it will do little to improve an education system that continually fails millions of students, especially in urban areas. It would be more effective to spend the funds to promote school choice, similar to how the post-World War II G.I. Bill operated. It is perhaps our country's most effective stimulus program.

The G.I. Bill, signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1944, among other things paid for college or vocational training for members of the armed forces returning home. Veterans had the choice to attend the school or college they thought was best for them. Millions of veterans took advantage of the opportunities. The G.I. Bill was a main impetus for the great advances and unprecedented prosperity in the post-war era.

We again have great challenges today. The economy is in terrible shape while many urban schools are turning out students who are woefully unprepared for the workplace. Some schools have more dropouts than graduates. Of course, many social problems can be traced to millions of young people with inadequate or incomplete educations.

School choice allows parents to choose the school best for their child, whether it is public, private or religious. It gives freedom of choice to those students trapped in failing schools. It is time for G.I. Bill-type programs for grade schools and high schools. It would be the best economic stimulus of all.

## CEF Archives at Mercantile Library

The St. Louis Mercantile Library has accepted the archives of Citizens for Educational Freedom, now in its 50th year. The St. Louis Mercantile Library is located on the campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis and it is the most prestigious library in St. Louis. It was founded in 1846 and contains a treasure of the history of St. Louis.

Our CEF archives will now be available for researchers and writers seeking information about the history of the School Choice movement. The address of the St. Louis Mercantile Library is: One University Library Blvd., St. Louis, MO, 63121, [www.mercantilelibrary.com](http://www.mercantilelibrary.com)



## United Nations Threatens Parental Rights



A human rights treaty that could take away the human and God-given rights of parents to educate and nurture their own children is now in discussion under the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. Under the U.N. proposed charter all decisions made by parents for the child can be reviewed by the government. This power, of course, would influence the choice of parents to place their children in a non-government or religious school. Many other provisions are proposed in this dangerous U.N. Proposal which would undermine the family.

Although 193 nations have signed the Treaty on the Rights of the Child, it has not been ratified by the U.S. Senate because of the strong opposition by parents and other good citizens. This treaty that would destroy the family is not in effect. However, it is expected that the Obama administration will support the treaty which would be enforced by international law over U.S. law. Please inform your Senator and President Obama that you oppose this Treaty.

## Rep. Hoekstra Introduces Parental Rights Amendment

Rep. Peter Hoekstra of Michigan has introduced a Parental Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. He was joined in the Senate by Sen. Jim DeMint of South Carolina. So far, they are backed by 60 congressional members. Charging that parental rights is being violated, the proposed Amendment to the U.S. Constitution would protect parents as they perform their duties in the care of their children. As he announced the introduction of the Parental Rights Amendment, Hoekstra said, "At a time when government at every level seems to encroach upon the ability of parents to choose the best for their children, it is important to preserve parental rights into the Constitution."

According to ParentalRights.org, an organization dedicated to seeing the amendment passed, this year's effort, in addition to senatorial support from DeMint, has recruited 65 U.S. representatives who have committed to joining Hoekstra in co-sponsoring the parental rights amendment.

J. Michael Smith, president of the Homeschool Legal Defense Assn., wrote, "It's possible that in the near future, the United States may significantly weaken the rights of parents to raise their children. Crucial decisions that parents are accustomed to making, such as what our children read, who they associate with, what kind of discipline is used, whether we take them to church, or whether we homeschool, all become decisions for the government if the United States ratifies the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. By allowing the government to define and determine what is in the 'best interests of the child,' outside the context of abuse and neglect cases, the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child in effect diminishes the parental role, replacing it with government supervision."

## Missouri Secretary of State Approves Petition for Charity Donations

The Missouri Secretary of State has approved wording for a constitutional amendment to add a new section to Article X – Taxation.

It would allow individual and corporate contributors and donors to receive a fifty percent (50%) Missouri Income tax credit for donations to Missouri incorporated and operated charitable and educational corporations, organizations, institutions and foundations recognized as such by the U, S, Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service.

Petitioners needs to obtain approximately 150,000 signatures of registered Missouri voters before May 1, 2010 in order to have the measure on the November 2010 ballot. A simple majority approval by voters would add this section to the Missouri Constitution.



Herman Kriegshauser, CEF Executive Director and Mae Duggan, founder of Citizens for Educational Freedom, presenting Jane Cunningham, Missouri State Senator, CEF's Human Rights Award

The exact wording of the amendment is: "Section 25. Individual and corporation contributors and donors to Missouri incorporated and operated charitable and educational not-for-profit corporations, organizations, institutions and foundations, as they are defined by the U. S Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, would receive a fifty percent (50%) state income tax credit against Missouri state income taxes due for the taxable year in which the contribution or donation is made, in addition to current federal and state income tax deductions allowable."

## Arizona Supreme Court Rules Against Handicapped Children

Using the infamous Blaine Amendment (a religious bigotry hate bill of the 1800's) Arizona Supreme Court killed a fine tax-paid program for children with disabilities which enabled their parents to choose quality private schools instead of unsuitable public schools.

### Parents Know Your Rights

**IDEA Law** - The Federal law; IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) provides that parents may choose private schools for their handicapped children if not satisfied with public school programs. The Arizona Supreme Court decision is in opposition to the federal law.

## No Homeland Security Radios for Private School Children

About three years ago CEF protested to Michael Chertoff of the Department of Homeland Security because Secretary Chertoff provided, at taxpayers expense, disaster warning radios to every public school in America. Not one disaster warning radio was offered to the private schools.

CEF protested this shameful discrimination against students, teachers and other private school people. Chertoff replied with a brief letter from a clerk in his office; not even an apology – just a "kiss off". "If we have any money left we will consider your request" Nothing was ever done to correct this selective security discrimination against our children and teachers. Now that Chertoff is gone, we have asked the Obama appointee, Secretary Napolitano to rectify this shameful treatment of our school children. We will let you know what her answer is. Check our website for the latest news.

## Sen. Durbin's Sneak Attack on D.C. Scholarship Program

The D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program that was passed by the pre-Obama Congress is now in danger of expiring by next school year, 2010, thanks to Senator Durbin of Illinois who sponsored a "sneak attack" on the D.C. Scholarships. This fine tax-funded scholarship program for needy students in our nation's capital has enabled several thousand students to escape from the dangerous and inadequate D.C. public schools to enroll in safe, quality private (non-government) schools for several years.

**Let your senator and representative know that you want the D.C. Scholarship Program continued to save the children.**

## Missouri Governor Nixon Opposes Parents Rights in Education

Recently, in a strong statement to a group of public school supporters, bureaucrats and teachers representatives, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon made it clear that he would continue to increase tax money for the public schools and would prevent any education benefits from helping the private and parochial school children of Missouri.

## Field Trips for School Choice



CEF has prepared a most helpful How To Do A Fieldtrip to Your Legislators to educate them about the value of Parents School Choice. Contact the CEF office for sample copies of *The Field Trip Plan*  
Call, Write or Email - 498 Woods Mill Rd.  
Manchester, MO 63011-4144  
PH: (636)686-7101 FAX: (636)686-7173  
CitEdFree@educational-freedom.org

## STUDENT VOICE

Students of America, let your voices be heard. Calling all Americans now to protest the shameful discrimination against school children – you good students – who attend private and religious schools. You are First Class Citizens – but you are treated like “second-class” citizens because you are cheated out of a share of the education taxes that you need to pay for your education in your quality private school.

Discrimination in any form is shameful. We all oppose racial discrimination but we must also oppose religious discrimination, which violates our U.S. Constitution.

Now that the youth of America have access to the world of the internet, please use your power to make noise about your objection to the unfair school tax laws, which deprive you and poor helpless children of their rights in education.

See the CEF website for more information.

### Student School Choice Essay Contest

Win a scholarship grant to the high school of your choice. Enter now. The Educational Freedom Foundation will award four scholarships to the winners of the essay contest.

The Topic: *Why America Needs School Choice.*

The Scholarship Awards are: First Prize - \$1000, Second and Third Prizes - \$500 and Fourth Prize - \$250. Go to our CEF website ([www.educational-freedom.org](http://www.educational-freedom.org)) to download an entry form or call the CEF office, (636) 686-7101.

### Handicapped Children Defended in Federal Lawsuit

Services to handicapped children who attend religious schools are being denied by the State of Washington. The state of Washington has long discriminated against children who attend private religious schools. The public school officials cite the Blaine Amendment of the 1870's to justify the denial of any tax paid services to private religious and parochial school children.

Today at last, the Institute for Justice and the Alliance for School Choice have filed a federal lawsuit against the State of Washington alleging religious discrimination in the provision of special education for handicapped school children. The action of the state violates the federal law for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which provides for parents choice of a private school. CEF applauds Institute for Justice and the Alliance for suing to defend parental rights and their school children's rights.

### TEACHER'S PET BILL -- 1963



### CEF Founder Mae Duggan To Receive School Choice Advocacy Award

Mae Duggan, co-founder of the pioneer School Choice organization: Citizens For Educational Freedom has been awarded the Leonard De Fiore School Choice Advocacy



Award by the National Catholic Education Association. She will receive the award at a dinner April 13 at the opening of the NCEA's annual Convention in Anaheim, California. The Catholic school system is the largest private school system in the U.S. Their Convention attracts 8000 to 10,000 people.

### Christians Called To Remove Their Children from Public Schools

Recently, a prominent Southern Baptist leader, Bruce Shortt, called on the Southern Baptist Convention to adopt a resolution calling upon Baptists to “take their children out of the public schools.” The resolution failed to pass.

Since then, other religious groups have joined in the call to parents to remove their children from godless, government schools. Officials of the Exodus Mandate have launched their “call to Dunkirk” a reference to World War II “rescue” of Allied soldiers from German attack.

Organization chief Chaplain Ray Moore, a retired military officer, said that at Dunkirk “total disaster was averted by the bold leadership of ordinary citizens answering the call for help.” “In America”, he said, “three quarters of the Christian children are trapped in the state-run public schools.”

Bruce Shortt, author of “The Harsh Truth About The Public School”, said “culture is shaped by how we are educated.” “Children spend about 14,000 hours in public schools. Whoever controls these 14,000 hours controls our children's worldview.” He quoted Charles F. Potter, a signer of the Humanist Manifesto, who wrote, “What can theistic Sunday School meeting for an hour once a week do to stem the tide of a five day program of humanistic teaching?” Ray Moore says that his “plan is simple.” But CEF says that it is not so simple when there are no Christian schools for the children. All states in the US have compulsory attendance laws and compulsory taxation for public schools only. Parents must have good religious schools open for their children. While home schooling is possible for some families, most parents cannot provide home schooling.

CEF calls on these fine religious citizens to “step up to the plate” and demand the repeal of unjust school tax laws which deny parents and their children a fair share of their school taxes for their religious school children. A fair share of school taxes must be given to parents to enable them to pay for private religious schools. That is their right and unjust tax laws must be repealed for the sake of the children. Then we can all have good religious schools for our children in a nation that guarantees religious freedom.