

D.C. Civil Rights Act for Equal Educational Opportunity

This bill mandates that all Washington D.C. children, attending public or non-public elementary or secondary school, are equitably funded, while the liberty of schools are respected in hiring and provision of services.

The present system of funding the education of children attending only public schools, and not those attending nonpublic schools, has its origins in the early part of the 19th Century, when diversity was feared, and it was felt that immigrants had to conform to the prevailing culture. Today, our nation has come to respect and value diversity. We have returned to our founding motto, which appears on the Seal of the United States, *E pluribus unum*, Latin for "Out of many, one." Every individual, of whatever race, religion or ethnicity, contributes to the unique mosaic that makes up our great American society. The time is surely past due to rectify the great injustice of government usurping the right of parents to raise and educate their own children.

An educational voucher of reasonable size, though less than the current government spending per student, that was available to all students regardless of income or race or religion and that did not prohibit add-ons or impose detailed regulations on start-up service providers would end up helping the poor more than a charity voucher — not instantly, but after a brief period as competition did its work. Just as the breakup of the Ma Bell monopoly led to a revolution in communications, a breakup of the school monopoly would lead to a revolution in schooling...