

SB-26

Supporting the use of education vouchers to combat inequality in the current national education system.

IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Madhavani of Connecticut introduced the following bill;

A BILL

Supporting the use of education vouchers to combat inequality in the current national education system.

Be it enacted by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Equal Schooling Act".

SECTION 2. Employing education vouchers in low-income schools

(a) The current state of inequality in the nation's education systems

-Whereas experts claim that students from minority backgrounds, immigrants, and low-income families on average leave school earlier and receive fewer degrees;

-Whereas experts also claim that these students' peers from higher-income backgrounds exhibit greater amounts of academic success in terms of receiving degrees and earning higher-paying jobs

directly after college;

-Whereas those students with higher level degrees earn more on average than their peers with lower-level degrees, thus perpetuating a cycle of imbalance and inequality within the education and job system;

-Whereas the richest 25 percent of school districts spend \$1,500 more per student, on average, than the poorest 25 percent of school districts;

-Whereas the funding gap between funded and underfunded schools grew by over 40 percent in the first decade of the 21st century;

-Whereas funding of schools directly correlates to success in each respective community with regards to income and performance of students;

-Whereas under the three previous administrations funding inequities in the education system have grown rather than shrunk;

-Whereas African-American, Hispanic, and Native American students disproportionately find themselves in the referenced underfunded schools;

-Whereas these minorities are also less likely to receive funding on the future given the precedents;

-Whereas the underfunding of schools in minority neighborhoods has led to lower performance amongst these students, such as averaging lower than the median score on tests such as the SAT;

-Whereas education vouchers would give referenced minorities the opportunity to access well-funded schools;

-Whereas education vouchers would require underperforming schools to retain students, and thus improve the quality of such school;

-Whereas education vouchers would evade debates regarding regionalization and other de-segregation measures that have failed in the past; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate -

- (b) Employs education vouchers for all students in low-income schools around the country
- (c) Employs education vouchers for schools where over 75% of the students in such school identify as an African-American, Latino, or Native American student; given that proper funding has not been allocated to such minorities, it is necessary that this bill targets this population
- (d) Sets up an office called the Equity in Education Office (EEO), which monitors how students who previously did not receive adequate funding are performing in their new school. This includes monitoring generational trends of average salary amongst such students in comparison to their counterparts who could not use the Voucher system.
- (e) Either expands or shrinks this program based on its performance as deemed by the EEO.
- (f) Uses funding for such vouchers through re-organizing the current Department of Education budget
- (g) Creates this program effective August 1, 2022

Definitions. - In this section:

(h) EDUCATION VOUCHERS.-The term "Education Voucher" means a certificate of government funding for students at schools chosen by themselves or their parents. Vouchers apply to both public and private schools, but must be within 50 miles of the student's living space; exceptions are only made for boarding schools.

(i) LOW-INCOME SCHOOL.-A low-income school is qualified as one where 50% or more of students are eligible for free or reduced price lunch (FRPL); or, a low-income school is one where more than 10% of its students fall below the poverty line in each respective state

(j) EEO.-The EEO would consist of senior, non-partisan employees from the Department of Education.