

A Resolution of the Democratic party of Washington County  
Resolution # 2017-041  
Regarding Voucher Programs for Private Schools

Whereas the 2016 Platform of the Democratic Party of Oregon, Article 3 Education, Plank 11 states: *We believe that public funding for K-12 and post-secondary education should be provided only to public schools managed by elected boards of education, and not transferred, contracted or sub-contracted to any private corporation for management or instructors; and*

Whereas the newly appointed U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has stated that she intends to offer students more educational choice by way of private school voucher program; and

Whereas U.S Congressional House Bill 610 has been introduced into Congress and contains wording that will cut programs for special education, nutrition, and low income students; and

Whereas HB 610 calls for education funds to be awarded to states as block grants to be used for individual student vouchers for students to attend the school of their choice, private or public; and

Whereas private schools are not fully regulated by the State of Oregon regarding quality and curricula and also may include religious training at odds with the principles of separation of church and state; and

Whereas research into the effectiveness of the use of vouchers has not shown the system to be effective in improving student performance<sup>1,2,3</sup>; and

Whereas the state legislature has the authority, along with the Governor, to determine the spending of federal education funds sent to Oregon; and

**Therefore be it Resolved by the Democratic Party of Washington County (DPWC), Oregon:**

1. We urge the State of Oregon and Oregon Department of Education to oppose any voucher programs in Oregon that divert funding away from public schools.
2. We request that all of our Washington County legislators to provide clear statements of their policy when it comes to voucher programs in Oregon.
3. We reaffirm our position that state revenues should be sufficient to fund Oregon public schools to the full Quality Education Model (QEM) guidelines.

4. We will make this resolution available to all Oregon state legislators, to the Oregon Department of Education, and the Democratic Party of Oregon

*Resolution: L. Stiller, PCP, P&RC; Approved by P&RC – 4/4/2017; 1<sup>st</sup> reading CC – 4/26/14; Passed unanimously by CC – 5/24/17.*

1. *Huffington Post, 04/04/11 (citing Milwaukee Sentinel Journal and Wisconsin State Journal studies) (Study cited in the Stanford News, 02/28/17.*
2. *“School Vouchers are not a proven strategy for improving student achievement”, Martin Conroy, Economic Policy Institute, February 28, 2017, <http://www.epi.org/publication/school-vouchers-are-not-a-proven-strategy-for-improving-achievement/3>*
- 3, *“On negative effects of vouchers”, Mark Dynarski, Evidence Speaks Reports, Vole 1, #18, May 26, 2016, Economic Studies at Brookings, <<https://www.brookings.edu/research/on-negative-effects-if-vouchers/>>*

Amendment to  
A Resolution of the Democratic party of Washington County Resolution #  
2017-041

**Change:**

Whereas research into the effectiveness of the use of vouchers has not shown the system to be effective in improving student performance<sup>1</sup>; and

**to:**

Whereas research into the effectiveness of the use of vouchers has not shown the system to be effective in improving student performance<sup>1,2</sup>; and

**Amend footnotes as follows:**

**Change:**

1. Huffington Post, 04/04/11 citing Milwaukee Sentinel Journal and Wisconsin State Journal studies) (Study cited in the Stanford News, 02/28/17.

**to:**

1. "School vouchers are not a proven strategy for improving student achievement", Martin Conroy, Economic Policy Institute, February 28, 2017, <http://www.epi.org/publication/school-vouchers-are-not-a-proven-strategy-for-improving-student-achievement/>
2. "On negative effects of vouchers", Mark Dynarski, Evidence Speaks Reports, Vol 1, #18, May 26, 2016, Economic Studies at Brookings, <https://www.brookings.edu/research/on-negative-effects-of-vouchers/>