



Educational Choice

LB 670

NFA Position: SUPPORT

Description:

LB 670, would increase choice in education for Nebraska families by enacting a tax credit for donations to nonprofit scholarship granting institutions. This tax-credit will incentivize increased giving to private school scholarships for low-income students.

Nebraska is ranked 49th, almost dead last, in comparison to other states educational choices. [1] There are no publicly supported options for non-public education such as private school, homeschool, or charter school. In other words, many families do not have a choice in their children's education.

Parents should have more control of their children's education than the government. However, financial burdens prevent many families from pursuing the school that would best suit their child's needs. And for those who seek help, there often aren't enough resources to meet the demand. In 2018-2019 school year, Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha had 439 qualified students left unfunded due to lack of scholarship money.

One way Nebraska could increase educational choice for low-income families is by adopting LB 670, the Opportunity Scholarships Act. LB 670 would enact a tax credit for private donations to non-profit scholarship granting organizations. Tax credits provide a valuable incentive for donors and would increase the number of scholarships available to eligible students for use at non-public schools without diverting any public funds away from public schools.

Key Points:

- Nebraska is ranked 49th, almost dead last, in comparison to other states educational choices. There are no publicly supported options for non-public education such as private school, homeschool, or charter school. [1]
- LB 670 would increase educational choice in Nebraska by incentivizing private donations to scholarship granting organizations.
- Parents should have more control over their children's education than the government. Financial burdens should not prevent parents from seeking the type of education that best suits their child's individual needs.

1 Parent Power Index Nebraska, Center for Education Reform. 2018. <https://parentpowerindex.edreform.com/parent-power-index/NE/>