

EDUCATION AND U.S. HOUSE BILL 610

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May 24, 2017 (from Facebook post)

While the majority party in OK is going bananas, don't forget our students' education is deeply affected by what happens in DC.

Well said by... Someone:

If you have school-age kids - you deserve to know the facts:

Having a school voucher system (proposed by Trump's Education secretary Betsy DeVos) does NOT mean you can simply choose any school you want your kid to go to. You will receive a voucher that can be applied to a school's enrollment fee/cost, which will most likely exceed the value of the voucher. If you already pay for private schools, yes ~ a voucher system MIGHT benefit you. If you do not pay for private school, a voucher system will financially and/or educationally devastate you/your child.

It is important you understand this proposal will dismantle the public education program.

Let me explain...

If your child has an IEP, frame it & kiss it good-bye.

If you have a job in special-education, meaning if you're a: special education teacher, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech pathologist, a para, or a teacher's aid, you're in the same boat.

If you are in ESL teacher, you'll go first.

House Bill 610 makes some large changes.

It is EXTREMELY important we inform ourselves.

This bill will effectively start the school voucher system to be used by children ages 5-17 and IMMEDIATELY starts the defunding process of public schools.

The bill will eliminate the Elementary and Education Act of 1965, which is the nation's educational law that provides equal opportunity in education.

ESSA is a big comprehensive program that covers programs for struggling learners, advanced and gifted kids in AP classes, ESL classes, classes for minorities such as Native Americans, Rural Education, Education for the Homeless, School Safety (Gun-Free schools), Monitoring and Compliance, and Federal Accountability Programs. Yes, there are all of these programs happening in our education system, in addition to just academics.

The Bill also abolishes the Nutritional Act of 2012 (No Hungry Kids Act) which provides nutritional standards in school breakfast and lunch.

The bill has no wording whatsoever protecting Special Needs kids, no mention of IDEA, and FAPE.

Some things ESSA does for Children with Disabilities:

- Ensures access to the general education curriculum.

- Ensures access to accommodations on assessments.

- Ensures concepts of Universal Design for Learning.

- Includes provisions that require local education agencies to provide evidence-based interventions in schools with consistently underperforming subgroups.

- Requires states in Title I plans to address how they will improve conditions for learning including reducing incidents of bullying and harassment in schools, overuse of discipline

practices and reduce the use of aversive behavioral interventions (such as restraints and seclusion).

Please call your representative and ask him/her to vote NO on House Bill 610 (HR 610)

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Oklahoma State NAACP Education Chairperson. I am currently medically released and available to address any concerns you may have. Best contact at this time is to message me on Facebook or call 580-483-5033. I'm here to help.