

OHIO ROUNDTABLE



March 15, 2007

Governor Ted Strickland
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Dear Governor Strickland,

After reviewing your speech of March 14th, 2007 we write to express serious concerns regarding your plans to take educational choices away from parents in Ohio.

Your speech makes reference to a term used by St. Paul in his writings. The concept of the “common good” is a great tenet of American public policy and we applaud your usage of the term. However, we are deeply puzzled as to how taking educational choice away from those on the lowest rung of the socio-economic ladder can possibly be construed as for the common good.

It is a well-known fact that the Ohio Education Association and the Ohio Federation of Teachers combined make up the largest “special interest” lobby at the State House. We have all been around long enough to know this is abundantly true. We also know that these two organizations stand to profit the most from the elimination of school choice. Therefore, the question must be raised, “Is this policy designed for the common good, or the good of the teachers’ unions of Ohio?”

On the economic front alone, this policy change does not add up. The thousands of children using vouchers in Ohio today are saving taxpayers significant dollars. The same is true for the children enrolled in charter schools. Eliminating or seriously curtailing these programs will take away choices from needy families and place greater tax burdens on all Ohioans.

We also applaud your desire for accountability in charter school education. Once again, however, we must raise the question of the common good. Charter schools that fail to perform lose students and revenue, and are shut down by the state. Public schools that fail their students face no such fate. To date we are aware of no failing public school ever being closed by the state of Ohio.

As you will remember, from our very first meeting several years ago, we have urged you to reconsider your position and meet with parents and students whose lives are being positively changed by having choices in their academic decisions. We once again, respectfully urge you and Lt. Governor Fisher to take the time to meet with parents and students and hear their stories before your policy takes from them the hope of a better education and a better life. We stand ready to assist you in any way to help facilitate these meetings around the state.

For the common good,

David Zanotti
President & CEO
The Ohio Roundtable

Restoring Traditional Judeo-Christian Principles to American Public Policy
National Headquarters • 11288 Alameda Dr. • Strongsville • OH • 44149
800-522-VOTE • FAX (440) 572-2128 • info@APRoundtable.org