



**The ACLU of South Carolina's National Office strongly opposes  
S.C. Senate Bill 520**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The ACLU of South Carolina's National Office strongly opposes programs that allow public money to be diverted to private schools, whether through tuition vouchers or tax credits.

- There is no evidence of benefit to the public from such unproven schemes, but there is initial evidence, in other states, that they amount to requiring taxpayers to subsidize the private choices of wealthier families while diverting much-needed funds from public schools.
- So-called tax credit schemes leave less funding for proven educational reforms like smaller classes, summer school, and teacher training.
- They burden public school systems with requirements to provide receipts and track parental payments.
- They remove options from students with special needs and disabilities and leave behind low-income students.
- Families who don't make enough money to pay taxes will not be able to claim the credits, so children from the poorest families will not benefit. Many middle-class families who send their children to public schools also will not benefit, because they do not pay enough in eligible education expenses to claim the credits.
- Private schools would receive these diverted tax dollars without any public oversight or disclosure of educational results.

The public education system in our state deserves more funding, not wasteful schemes that will siphon off tax dollars during a budget crisis.

Additional information about the ACLU South Carolina Office is available online at:  
[www.aclusouthcarolina.org](http://www.aclusouthcarolina.org)

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