



# FACT SHEET

House Committee on Education and Workforce

Ranking Member Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

## The Republicans’ “Big Ugly Bill” Prioritizes Private Schools and Homeschooling Over Public Education to Give Tax Breaks to the Rich

The Republicans’ “Big Ugly Bill” will create the first nationwide federal school voucher program, force taxpayers to fund private schools and homeschools, and effectively divert funding and resources away from public schools that serve over 90 percent of students—all to pay for tax breaks for the rich and subsidize their children’s private education.

### The Republicans’ “Big Ugly Bill” creates an unprecedented tax cut for the rich by:

- Enabling donors to school voucher programs to receive a **100 percent tax credit— all their money back**. This would elevate donations to voucher programs above all other donations, including donations made to food pantries, hospitals, houses of worship, and every other kind of charity.
- Allowing millionaires to **avoid paying capital gains taxes** when they donate investments such as stocks, bonds, and real estate.
- Letting wealthy people—those earning up to three times their area median income—qualify for the vouchers to use for their own children, either for private schools or homeschooling.
- Forcing taxpayers to foot the bill at \$20 billion.**

### The Republicans’ “Big Ugly Bill” will harm students and families and trample on their civil rights by:

- Allowing private schools to discriminate against students and families.** For example, students attending private schools with these vouchers will not have protections under:
  - Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* (42 USC § 2000d et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs receiving federal funding;
  - Title IX of the *Education Amendments of 1972* (20 USC § 1681 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in programs receiving federal funding;
  - Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* (29 USC § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs receiving federal funding;
  - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (20 USC § 1400 et seq.), which provides that eligible children with disabilities are entitled to receive special education services and supports necessary to ensure that they can receive a free and appropriate public education; and
  - Only private secular schools must comply with Title III of the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (42 USC § 12131 et seq.), which protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability in services, programs, and activities provided by State and local government entities.
- Preventing federal, state, and local governments from adding transparency, accountability, and oversight mechanisms to either scholarship-granting organizations or participating private schools.

- Providing a private right of action to allow parents *who support the program* to intervene in a lawsuit raising a federal or state constitutional challenge to the program. However, parents who *oppose* the program or whose children have had their rights violated by it are not provided the opportunity to intervene in such lawsuits.
- **Establishing a gag rule** that prohibits public school teachers, counselors, and administrators from honestly answering questions about the program when asked by parents or advising parents about what is in the best interest of their children, including that students will lose civil rights protections if they use this voucher at a private school, especially students with disabilities.
- Permitting private schools to hire unqualified people to teach children, teach students whatever they decide, and avoid responsibility for student outcomes.

To read letters of opposition to this provision, click [here](#).