



Office of Congressman Jeff Flake

News Release

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Congressman Flake Urges D.C. Leaders to Let Parents, Not Teachers Unions, Decide Where Kids Go To School

*Flake Plan "Imposes" Freedom on D.C. Parents to Choose
Where Their Kids Go To School*

Washington, D.C. - Arizona Congressman Jeff Flake, who represents the state's Sixth District, today challenged leaders of the District of Columbia to increase educational opportunities for District children.

Congressman Flake has introduced legislation, H.R. 684, which will create opportunity scholarships for children living below or near the poverty line to attend the school of their choice. Money for the scholarships would come from new funding, so no money would be diverted from currently funded education programs.

"D.C. leaders talk about imposing vouchers on parents who don't want them," said Flake. **"But the truth is that if these leaders are right and parents really don't want more options, then nobody will take advantage of these scholarships. No money will be diverted from public schools and nothing will be imposed on anybody."**

"However, parents do want more options. They do want the ability to choose where their kids go to school. And they deserve to have a school system that works."

Congressman Flake's bill, originally introduced by former House Majority Leader Dick Armey during his tenure in the House, was passed by Congress in 1997, but vetoed by President Clinton in 1998.

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