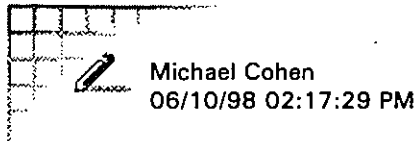


NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 022 - Folder 016

Education - Vouchers



Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

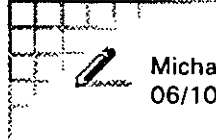
cc:

Subject: POTUS on vouchers

FYI--POTUS is in fact consistent on this issue; I checked the statement that Riley put out after the '96 debate (after he said something to the effect of "...if people in Milwaukee or Cleveland want to have vouchers, I say 'let 'er rip').

According to this statement that was carefully negotiated with his Secretary of Education, the President:

1. opposes the use of federal funds for vouchers
2. believes the use of state or local funds for vouchers are state or local decisions
3. as he said about the 1995 Cal. voucher ballot initiative, the President would personally oppose state or local voucher plans if he were a voter in a state or locality.



Michael Cohen
06/10/98 01:29:26 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: edited voucher Q&A

Attached is a slightly edited answer for the voucher question --clarifying that the President opposes using **federal** funds for vouchers:

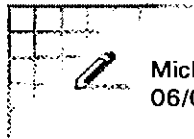
Q. The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled today that the private school voucher program in Milwaukee is constitutional. In light of the President's opposition to school vouchers, what is his view of this decision?

A. The President has not had a chance to review the Court decision. However, the President is opposed to **using federal funds** for school vouchers because he believes that we must use public funds to strengthen our public schools. We must raise standards, increase accountability, expand public school choice, and invest taxpayer resources in the steps that will make a difference, such as reducing class size, improving teaching, and modernizing our school buildings. He is opposed to diverting federal funds away from the public schools, which serve 90% of the students, when the needs there are so great. The Wisconsin Supreme Court decision does not changes these views, nor the President's opposition to private school vouchers.

Message Sent To:

Joseph P. Lockhart/WHO/EOP
Barry J. Toiv/WHO/EOP
Joshua Silverman/WHO/EOP
Nanda Chitre/WHO/EOP
Elizabeth R. Newman/WHO/EOP
Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

Tobacco - Drugs
and
Educ - vouchers



Michael Cohen
06/03/98 06:58:46 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Drug Free Neighborhoods Act Alert

I just got a heads up from the Education Department and Kennedy's staff that the Coverdell-Craig-Abraham Drug-Free Neighborhoods Act amendment to the Tobacco bill may well contain a provision, offered last year by Senate Republicans, that allows federal funds to be used to give vouchers to kids who are victims of school violence, including drug-related crimes.

The overview/summary of the bill reads: **DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS:** makes it an allowable use of federal funds to provide school choice or compensation for k-12 students who are the victims of school violence, including drug-related crimes...."

In the education world, a tobacco bill that doesn't have class size reduction but does provide for vouchers would be seen as a complete disaster. I don't know where things stand in the negotiations over this amendment, but it would be great if we could indicate that this particular provision would be a deal breaker. Otherwise, the R's may be using this to set the Dems up to take responsibility for bringing down the tobacco bill.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

Educatic - vouchers

October 30, 1997
(House)

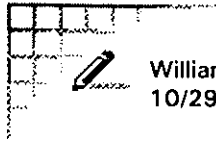
STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

(THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN COORDINATED BY OMB WITH THE CONCERNED AGENCIES.)

H.R. 2746 - Helping Empower Low-income Parents (HELP)
Scholarships Amendments of 1997
(Rep. Riggs (R) CA and 11 others)

The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 2746. If the bill were presented to the President, his senior advisers would recommend that the bill be vetoed. Under H.R. 2746, States and local school districts could provide vouchers for basic instruction in private schools, using funds that are otherwise available for the supplementary costs of education reform under Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Federal funding of private school vouchers is bad policy because it would divert needed attention and resources from the Nation's public schools, which serve approximately 90 percent of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Educ - charter schools
(and)
Educ - vouchers



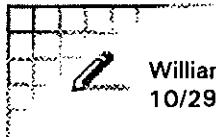
William R. Kincaid
10/29/97 07:36:34 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Michael Cohen/OPD/EOP
cc: Tanya E. Martin/OPD/EOP
bcc:
Subject: Re: House Vouchers/Charters

The problematic rule and these two bills are now expected to come up on the House floor tomorrow (Thursday); Andy Blocker has confirmed that Democratic leadership will be opposing the rule; the question is whether any moderate Republicans who support charter schools and don't want to mess up the Riggs-Roemer bill will vote against it as well. Jon Schnur is letting John Doerr's folks know about this, because they have a strong interest in charter schools, and is also getting the word out to some in the charter schools community, who probably wouldn't want to see the bill fouled up.

William R. Kincaid



William R. Kincaid
10/29/97 12:31:59 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Michael Cohen/OPD/EOP
cc: Tanya E. Martin/OPD/EOP
Subject: House Vouchers/Charters

fyi -- As we had heard was a possibility, for House floor consideration, Goodling has requested a "self-executing" rule, under which the voucher bill (HELP) would come up first, then the charter schools bill, and then once both bills have passed the voucher bill would automatically be added to the charter bill before it goes over to the Senate.

'97 SEP 29 11:38

Education vouchers

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
STATEMENT ON SCHOOL VOUCHER VOTE
SEPTEMBER 30, 1997**

In the 21st century, our children must have the best education in the world. I am committed to making sure every eight-year old can read, every 12-year old can log on to the Internet, and every 18-year old can go to college. And we have made significant progress to improve and strengthen public education.

But as Congress continues to debate the Education Bill this fall, it's become very clear that there some who are waging a multi-front war against our public schools.

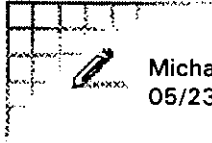
First, the Senate has passed an amendment that would virtually kill the Department of Education and abolish some of its most successful efforts to expand public school choice, to bring computers to every classroom, to create more safe and drug-free schools.

Second, the House of Representatives has voted to prevent America from setting the high national standards of academic excellence that we must have to ensure every child masters the basics.

I have vowed to veto both pieces of legislation. And I am pleased that 43 Democratic Senators have announced their intention to support high national standards and sustain my veto.

Third, in a vote to occur today, some in Congress would diminish our country's commitment to public education by siphoning badly-needed funds away from our public schools into a voucher program that would support private education for a limited number of students. Ninety percent of America's children attend public schools. Our public schools are already facing a host of challenges with very limited funds. And we must continue to support proven reform efforts -- making schools safer, getting parents more involved, raising standards and improving teaching.

Education has always been a public enterprise in America. Public schools are the cornerstone of American democracy. Throughout history, we have always recognized our common responsibility for preparing all our young for the challenges of the future and duties of citizenship. I call upon Congress to stand by our public schools, not walk away from them.



Michael Cohen
05/23/97 04:53:20 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
cc: Laura Emmett/WHO/EOP
Subject: Weekly CORRECTION

Elena-- on the voucher amendment, Lott did not introduce this; Dominici did for Coverdale. See how much confusion is rampant on this?

I would stress in the weekly (1) that it happened; (2) that it was occasioned by confusion; it happened quickly, the amendment was so poorly drafted that it is unimplementable; (3) that it provides something of a symbolic victory but one that we can and will downplay because of the confusion.

Subject: Education amendment

The education amendment adopted in the Senate by a vote of 51-49 (Domenici voting for) was intended to allow the Labor Committee to fund school vouchers for children who are the victims of crime. It is basically not implementable although it does change budget resolution numbers. The amendment came in the form of a second degree to the Wellstone amendment (the Republicans wanted to avoid an up or down vote on Wellstone).

The text of the amendment states the intent as described above, and simply strikes Wellstone number changes and inserts an additional (not offset) \$2.5 billion in 2000 in budget authority for Function 400, it also adds an additional \$2.5 billion in budget aggregates. Outlays are not changed, the discretionary caps are not changed, nor is the Labor Committee reconciled the additional spending. Since the stated intent of the amendment is not binding, the only effect of this amendment is to increase Function 400 education spending (budget authority only) in the year 2000.

During the debate, there was a great deal of confusion about the amendment and many members (including possibly Senator Domenici) apparently thought it was a Sense of the Senate. The education community is concerned that some will represent this as a test vote on vouchers (the Senate has always filibustered vouchers in the past) but I'd chalk it up to confusion and play down the voucher piece of this.

In any event, there is common agreement internally that the amendment should be dropped in conference.