July 24, 2024

The White House
Office of the Vice President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Madam Vice President,

A broad coalition of public education advocacy organizations from across the US write to you today urging you to select a running mate for Vice President of the United States who fully supports public education. It is our fervent hope that your running mate will reflect your strong history of supporting educators and students, and commitment to building the middle class which will require strong public schools across our nation. For this reason, we respectfully ask you not to select Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, who has supported education policies mirroring Project 2025.

The Heritage Foundation and other radical extremists organizations have declared war on public schools in America — and by doing so, they’ve set their sights on the end of democracy itself. Through Project 2025, they have made it abundantly clear the end goal of gutting public education and privatizing what is left via irresponsible voucher systems like those in Florida and Arizona.

For those of us across America fighting on the ground for public education, this playbook is not new. It has been enacted state by state through massive voucher programs that are decimating our local public schools and exacerbating school closures, teacher layoffs, and loss of resources — all by design. This playbook has been pushed by Betsy DeVos’ American Federation for Children, the Kochs, the Heritage Foundation, and a wide range of well-funded billionaires who do not have the interests of our children or a multi-racial, thriving democracy at heart.

The battle lines have been drawn. We urge you to select a nominee for Vice President who unabashedly supports and defends public education. For example, nominees such as Governors Roy Cooper (North Carolina), Andy Beshear (Kentucky), and Tim Walz (Minnesota) have been vocal champions for public education in their states. We find it incumbent upon us to note that Governor Josh Shapiro (Pennsylvania) has not, and instead has supported voucher schemes pushed by well-funded billionaires from Pennsylvania like Jeffrey Yass.
As education advocacy groups, we are fighting not only for 50 million students and millions of educators, but also for the future of our democracy. The stakes could not be higher, and as we fight the battle against authoritarians who would dismantle public education across our great nation, we believe it is essential that our President and Vice President be wholly committed to our nation’s public education system and willing to fight against school privatization in all its forms.

We hope you will take our urgent request into consideration as you make this critical decision.

Respectfully,

Network for Public Education Action  
412 Justice (Pennsylvania)  
Alliance for Educational Justice  
Boston Education Justice Alliance  
Center for Popular Democracy Action  
Colorado Fiscal Institute  
Columbus Education Justice Coalition  
Community Voices for Public Education - Houston  
Connecticut for All  
Education Rights Network (Pennsylvania)  
The Education and Economic Justice Coalition (Georgia)  
Families for Strong Public Schools (Florida)  
Game on for Kansas Schools  
Grassroots Arkansas  
HEAL To Win / Race Forward Action  
Illinois Families for Public Schools  
Indiana Coalition for Public Education  
Journey for Justice Alliance  
Michigan Education Justice Coalition  
Ohio Public Education Partners  
Parents for Public Schools of Milwaukee  
Pastors for Children  
Save Our Schools Arizona  
Support Forest Hills Public Schools Action (Michigan)  
Voters for Strong Public Schools (Florida)  
Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools  
Wisconsin Public Education Action  
Wisconsin Public Education Network