

Barack Obama

February 29, 2008

Sue Taylor
President
Ohio Federation of Teachers
1251 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43205

Dear President Taylor,

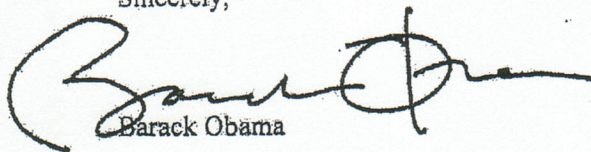
Thank you for your letter inquiring about my position on federal government funding for private school vouchers.

I do not and have never supported voucher programs. Your letter included a reference to a misleading article in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* that suggested I support private voucher programs.

Throughout my career, I have been a consistent and outspoken opponent of vouchers. In the Illinois State Senate, I voted against legislation that would have created tuition tax credits for parents to use to send their kids to private and parochial schools – legislation that would create “backdoor vouchers.” And in a major speech on education in July, I repeated my opposition to federal government funding of private school vouchers: “The ideal of a public education has always been at the heart of the American promise. It’s why we are committed to fixing and improving our public schools instead of abandoning them and passing out vouchers.” And, as your letter acknowledged, I also made my position clear in my questionnaire response to the American Federation of Teachers last year.

Thank you for your query. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama



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