



Ohio Federation of Teachers

AFT, AFL-CIO

A Union of Professionals

1251 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43205
T: 614/258-3240
800/821-1722 in Ohio
F: 614/257-4193

www.oft-aft.org

19 February 2008

Obama for America
P.O. Box 8102
Chicago, IL 60680

Dear Senator Obama,

We are writing to get a clear understanding of your position on public school vouchers—specifically, whether or not you support using taxpayer dollars to allow students to attend private schools. Throughout your political career, you have made different statements on this important issue, and we believe that voters like us should know your position and how you would address the issue if elected president.

Earlier this month, in a meeting with the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, you indicated that you were open to the idea of using vouchers. [<http://video.ap.org/v/Legacv.aspx?g=31914bb2-065d-4969-830d-00d6053e7ddc&mk=en-ap&f=wimil&fg=email>]

Yet, in July, you responded to the American Federation of Teachers' questionnaire with the following statement about your position on vouchers: "We need to invest in our public schools and strengthen them, not drain their fiscal support. And for this reason, I do not support vouchers. In the end, vouchers would reduce the options available to children in need. I fear these children would truly be left behind in a private market system."

In 2004, as a candidate for the U.S. Senate, you said your opponent Alan Keyes' support for vouchers would "blow up the public school system" by draining it of resources." [*Chicago Sun-Times*, Oct. 27, 2004]

Back in 2000, you voiced concerns about the voucher system, indicating you felt it could potentially "hemorrhage money out of the public school systems and leave those students of last resort in a worse situation than they're in right now." [*Chicago Defender*, Feb. 21, 2000]

Our question is simple: Which of these is your position on vouchers?

Will you, like President Bush, propose a federally funded voucher program? Or will you stand firm against using taxpayers' money to support private schools?

Sue Taylor
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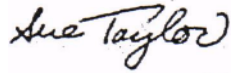
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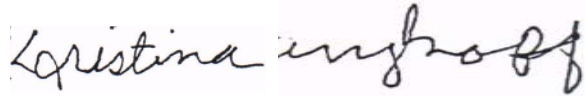
An affiliate of the
American Federation of
Teachers, AFL-CIO

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



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

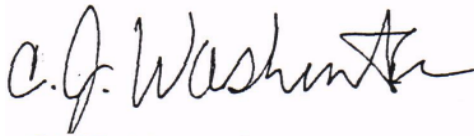


Kris Schwarzkopf,
Political Director Toledo Federation of
Teachers 111 S. Byrne Rd.
Toledo, Ohio 43615



David Quolke, Political Director
Cleveland Teachers Union
1370 W 6th St Fourth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44 113

Derry Hooks, President
Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, Retired
2721 Central Parkway, Suite B
Cincinnati, Ohio 45225



CJ Washington, Member
Toledo Federation of Teachers
111 S. Byrne Rd.
Toledo, Ohio 43615



Bonnie Thatcher, Teacher
Van Wert Federation of Teachers
819 State St.
Van Wert, Ohio 45891