



Ohio Federation of Teachers

AFT, AFL-CIO

A Union of Professionals

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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?

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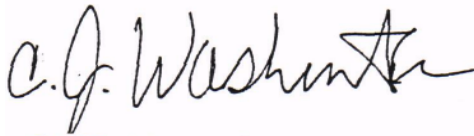
We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

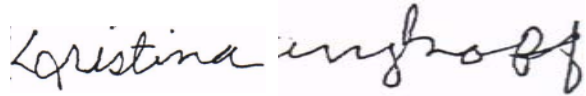
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