

Rebuttal to John Burch Society Alert Against School Vouchers and ESAs Is In Red Below

ACT NOW: State legislatures are increasingly considering and enacting school vouchers and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). Although these proposals might sound good, they severely threaten individual freedom and parental rights by shackling parents and religious schools to government funding — and the various strings attached. ***It is imperative that state legislators oppose vouchers and ESAs, and instead protect educational freedom!***

State legislatures are increasingly considering and passing legislation implementing vouchers and ESAs, with [West Virginia](#) and [Arizona](#) being the first states to enact broad-based versions of this policy. Now, in 2023, [even more states](#) are considering and enacting such legislation.

Supporters of vouchers and ESAs often describe it as “school choice” or “money following the child.” However, **these policies actually represent a major — and potentially disastrous — intrusion of government into private and home education. Alabama’s PRICE Act does not change or amend (in ANY way) the laws that regulate private schools or homeschools. The PRICE Act is a funding bill that allows parents to apply for education saving accounts for their children. They can then use those funds to educate their children as they wish according to their family’s values and priorities.**

First, vouchers and ESAs are closely connected to the United Nations and [its push](#) to [indoctrinate](#) children with international-socialist [ideology](#). **We googled “Education Savings Accounts” and the “United Nations” and did not see any correlation or articles relating to those words. So we’re not sure where this “closely connected” statement comes from. The PRICE Act contains NO requirements for what or how children are taught. Again, the current laws that regulate private schools and homeschools in Alabama are not affected. Those entities retain their autonomy and their policies of admissions, hiring, freedom to choose curriculum, testing and**

accreditation policies are up to them NOT the government. The PRICE Act as introduced does not change any of those things. For example, the UN's education agency, UNESCO, has advocated subsidizing private schools with tax money [in order to control them](#) — i.e., impose the same leftist standards on them as public schools — thus enabling the implementation of the UN's totalitarian [Agenda 2030](#) scheme.

As implied above, **vouchers and ESAs are dangerous also because government can easily attach strings to the funding, forcing parents and private schools to submit to far-left indoctrination and other draconian government policies. The PRICE Act has no strings.** In foreign countries, including Sweden, Australia, and Canada, private schools — including Christian ones — now teach leftist ideology and are practically indistinguishable from public schools, because they are shackled to government funding. The United States is next — a Republican-sponsored bill in Florida would have placed [draconian restrictions](#) on homeschoolers in exchange for government funding. **Florida stripped the bill of those provisions before it was passed.** This bill won't be the last.

Furthermore, contrary to the slick “fund students, not systems” slogan, government schools will continue to receive the same levels of funding under ESA/voucher policies. Such policies will simply [increase](#) — not shift or reduce — government meddling in education. **(The link takes you to a 2015 article about NV school choice ESA. But if you [look at what NV has for school choice it's a tax credit scholarship program.](#)) Government schools may continue to receive funding but in states where students use ESAs those students will be educated at about half the cost as public schooled students which will be a savings to tax payers.**

More information on the dangers of vouchers and ESAs can be found in Alex Newman's article in the April 10, 2023 issue of *The New American* magazine.

Urge your state legislators to oppose all ESA and voucher programs, and to instead support fully defunding and abolishing the government-school

system. We agree that the government school system has grown into a bureaucratic monstrosity and has circumvented parental rights. We want to restore public education to the local control and the PRICE Act helps do that. Only then — rather than by false solutions — will we achieve fully educational freedom.