

## Travaglio, Guy

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**From:** Tammie Snyder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 23, 2001 11:34 AM  
**To:** Travaglio, Guy  
**Subject:** Oppose tuition vouchers

Tammie Snyder  
[REDACTED]  
Butler, PA 16001

April 23, 2001

Representative Guy Travaglio  
House Box 202020  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Travaglio:

I urge you to oppose use of tax dollars for tuition vouchers.

**VOUCHERS DIVERT ATTENTION FROM NEEDS OF SCHOOLS:** The debate over vouchers keeps legislators, parents and public schools from addressing programs that can improve schools-technology, improved parental involvement, school discipline, and clear and strong academic standards.  
**PILOT PROGRAMS ARE FOOT-IN-THE-DOOR SCHEMES:** Pilot programs have been tried in other states and have been used as a "foot-in-the-door" for greater tax support for private and religious schools. Pennsylvania needs to concentrate its energy and tax dollars on providing quality public education for all children.

**TRIED AND FAILED:** In Milwaukee, independent studies of the "pilot" program have shown that students who have used vouchers have not done any better than their public school counterparts. Students in some private voucher schools in Ohio perform worse on tests than do public school students.

**ACCOUNTABLE TO NO ONE:** Religious and other private schools will take public tax dollars and then be accountable to no one. Taxpayers don't want their money given to schools over which they have no control.

**DON'T EXPERIMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN:** Others have experimented with their children. Let's learn from their experience and reject calls for sending students to private and religious schools at public expense.

**LAST THING WE NEED:** It's foolish to fund a costly new government program and to spend state tax dollars on private and religious schools when the state isn't adequately funding public education now.

**NEW ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM:** When have you heard of the government ending an entitlement program once it was started?

**CRUEL HOAX:** The private and religious schools will have a "choice" in which students to accept. Parents and students will be at the mercy of the private and religious schools.

Sincerely,  
Tammie Snyder

*Sent voucher ltr  
4-25-01*

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, MEMBER  
HOUSE BOX 202020  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020  
PHONE: (717) 787-7686  
FAX: (717) 783-3554

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
138 EAST JEFFERSON STREET  
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA 16001  
PHONE: (724) 283-5852  
FAX: (724) 284-8253



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VETERANS AFFAIRS

April 11, 2001

David Wells  
351 Cole Road  
Sarver PA 16055

Dear Mr Wells:

Thank you for your letter expressing your opposition to school tuition vouchers. I appreciate the time and effort taken to include me in your thoughts. As your state representative, I value the opportunity to be of service to you.

I am happy to see that you are concerned with important national and state issues. Improving Pennsylvania's education system is an important issue to me. The Commonwealth has a moral and constitutional duty to assure that all children, poor and wealthy alike, have the same opportunity to quality education.

As you know, vouchers use taxpayer funds intended for public schools to pay for private school tuition. I have concerns that any voucher program takes away money from public schools that could be used to improve public education. Also, public schools educate the majority of Pennsylvania's children -- 90 percent. To that end, I do not support the use of vouchers as a way to improve education in Pennsylvania.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns. As always, your input is welcomed and appreciated. Should you require any further assistance with this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Guy A. Travaglio".

Guy A. Travaglio  
State Representative  
11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District