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PublicSchoolOptions.org
2100 M Street NW Suite 170-257
Washington DC 20037-1233
[866-558-2874](tel:866-558-2874)

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

The Honorable John Kasich
PO Box 1344
Columbus, OH 43216

Governor Kasich-

I am pleased that you will be participating in The Seventy Four Education Summit in New Hampshire on August 19th. PublicSchoolOptions.org (PSO) is a parent-led non-profit advocacy organization that supports and defends parents' rights to choose the school where their children will learn best. As its President, I am looking forward to hearing where you and other 2016 Republican and Democrat presidential candidates stand on the issue of equal opportunity in education, and whether you trust parents to make decisions about their children's education, including choosing the public school option that suits their child's learning needs.

At PSO we believe that every child, regardless of their zip code or how much money their parents make, deserves the best start in life. We firmly believe that begins with a parent's ability to choose the school where their child will thrive – whether that's in a traditional brick and mortar school, public virtual school, charter school, home school, or private school. Every child learns differently, even within the same family. Giving parents options so their child can succeed is critical.

At The Seventy Four Education Summit, we – PSO board members and parents leaders from across the country – will be listening to hear where candidates stand on this most important issue: **Access to public school options.**

We also look forward to hearing whether you support Congressional legislation reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. At PSO we urge candidates to support efforts to produce a final bill that will empower parents, give greater flexibility to states and local school districts in testing designs and accountability, and lift the heavy handed federal one-size-fits-all regulations that burden schools and limit choices for parents.

I, along with another board member from PSO, will be in attendance at both the Republican and Democrat summits. PublicSchoolOptions.org and our members are always available as a resource to parents and policymakers, and you can contact us anytime with questions.

#ITrustParents – do you?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tillie Elvrum".

Tillie Elvrum
President, PublicSchoolOptions.org

PublicSchoolOptions.org is a national alliance of over 60,000 parents that supports and defends parents' rights to access the best public school options for their children. The Coalition supports the creation of public school options, including charter schools, online schools, magnet schools, open enrollment policies and other innovative education programs. Additionally, we advocate for equal access without restrictions to the school that best suits the individual student's learning needs whether it is public, non-public or home-based.

With active parent-led organizations in over thirty states, PublicSchoolOptions.org is an advocacy organization that is unmatched at the grassroots level. Just as parents have fought for years at the state level to support education policies that improve access and provide greater public school options, the parents of PublicSchoolOptions.org stand ready to support policy at the federal level that matches the principles outlined above.