



March 23, 2023

Senator Shannon Grove
1021 O Street, Suite 7150
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

SUBJECT – SENATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 5, SUPPORT & SPONSORSHIP

We write proudly as sponsors of Senate Constitutional Amendment 5 which would allow for the creation of education savings accounts (ESA) – through the implementation of Senate Bill 292 – for any child who desires to seek an education outside of a public school using general fund dollars that would have otherwise been allocated to their education if they were otherwise attending their neighborhood schools. Public education in the United States is failing our children and not preparing them to be civically minded adults in the 21st-century economy. Parents need more options.

In order to implement an ESA as outlined in SB 292, it is necessary to amend the California state constitution to do the following three things:

1. Clarify that state funds may go into a parent-controlled account for legitimate education expenses that may cover the costs of private schools irrespective of religious affiliation. This is consistent with the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court in [Espinoza v. Montana](#) (2020) and [Carson v. Makin](#) (2022) striking down the so-called Blaine Amendments.
2. Adjust the calculation in enrollment as they relate to computing the minimum amount of revenues the state is required to appropriate for the support of school districts and community college districts by defining average daily attendance to include all children currently – and eligible to be enrolled in – public schools regardless of their ESA status.
3. Authorizes the Legislature to require the allocation of ad valorem property tax revenue in the manner described in the Education Savings Account Act of 2024.

Parents are responsible for their children and should have the tools and resources necessary to provide the best education opportunities for their kids regardless of their zip code. That is why California Policy Center fully supports and is sponsoring SCA 5.

Sincerely,

Lance Christensen
Vice President of Education Policy & Government Affairs