

# ADVOCACY STEPS

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GETTING FEDERAL SCHOOL CHOICE PASSED INTO LAW

*EDUCATIONAL CHOICE FOR CHILDREN ACT (H.R.833/S.292)*

## STATUS OF ECCA: WELL POSITIONED; IT'S *REAL AND READY*

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- 180+ co-sponsors in last Congress (118<sup>th</sup>), including Republican leadership of both houses, built up support for 3 ½ years.
- Passed by the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee in September 2024 – an important vetting process; staff familiarity.
- President Trump supports school choice and supports the ECCA.

# IMPORTANCE OF CONSTITUENTS/VOTERS

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- You are the number one most important factor to an elected official; more than high-powered DC lobbyist, or VIP donor, or the merits of the issue itself.
- You determine whether a lawmaker remains in office.
- There is strength in numbers; the more of you who make contact, the more seriously the lawmaker considers an issue.
- We must make this a ***political necessity*** for lawmakers – the most important reason they act on an issue (more than the merits of an issue).

# YOU ARE POSITIONED TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE ON ENACTING ECCA

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- Most Republican members support school choice and ECCA, but they need still to be pushed. Cannot presume “support” means they will work to get it enacted.
- Most Democrats either oppose or cannot support ECCA due to their partisan alliance with teacher unions; still, there is an opportunity to **educate** lawmakers and remind them that you are voting constituents who also deserve representation.
- Contacting members elevates the importance of the ECCA, especially to a supportive Congressman, thereby making it a **higher priority**, a **political necessity** for them.

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- The “ask” is to **pass into law**, i.e., do everything in your power to GET IT DONE! by including ECCA in the Reconciliation bill.
- The request is *not* to “support” it or “vote for it”, which requires no effort from them – we are past all that, and don’t accept that as a satisfactory response;
- Rather, you should respectfully give them an “assignment” to ensure it is included in the Reconciliation bill.
- Issue call-to-action requests for families, donors, staff, and whatever email lists to contact their respective members of Congress. IIEC has a webpage to direct them to message their two senators and House member: <https://speak4.app/lp/sa01fs3l/>.

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- Schedule and attend meeting in congressional district office; include school and community or other leaders who represent many constituents/voters.
- Bring information to “leave behind”, e.g., school background, parent satisfaction, academic success, community connection, demographic data.
- Don’t assume members know details about their own district—and your schools—since there is so much of which to keep track when you represent 760,000 people, serve on multiple committees and subcommittees, constantly fundraise, etc.