

January 13, 2022

Dear Saint Mary's Parishioner,

I hope you are well. This is a long email, but please bear with me as it has great potential to assist Saint Mary's parish.

LB364, which would create a scholarship tax credit program benefiting kids who qualify for free and reduced lunch and who wish to attend a private school of their choice, is up for floor debate early next week in the Nebraska Legislature. To learn more about scholarship tax credits, visit [here](https://investinkidsnebraska.org/) (https://investinkidsnebraska.org/).

We are working as quickly as possible to reach out to our State Senators asking for their support while also trying to make it as easy as possible for everyone who wishes to be an advocate for school choice.

Strong opposition and misinformation have stalled this legislation every year it has been introduced, as scholarship organizations and schools must turn hundreds of kids away due to lack of funds every year. Advancing school choice in our state remains a pressing social justice issue.

Nebraska is now *one of only two states* in the country with no school choice policy. This is a sad fact since parents are the first and primary educators of their children and have the right to find the best educational setting for their child regardless of income or zip code.

Thus, I need your help. The voices of educators and parents and school choice supporters are vital to passing this bill.

Personal messages to our State Senators will make a huge difference in helping pass this legislation and making our elected officials feel supported and encouraged. I am asking you to do the following:

1. [Send a message to your State Senator](#) about Opportunity Scholarships. It does not have to be long, but please be positive and feel free to include a personal touch. Here's how to [find your Senator](#), and here's how [they voted](#) last time on this bill. The two senators who represent St. Mary's parishioners are: Sen. Bruce Bostelman (District 23).
2. Ask anyone you know who is a supporter of school choice to do the same.

Learn more about scholarship tax credit legislation by going to <https://investinkidsnebraska.org/>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeremy Ekeler at the Nebraska Catholic Conference (jekeler@necatholic.org or 402.477.7517).

It is so important to show support and encouragement for those senators who are helping to make Nebraska a more just and loving society. Your voice does matter! The vote goes to the people who show up or whose voice is heard by their senator.

Thank you for your attention to this!