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## **PRESIDENT CLINTON OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS K-12 SCHOOL CHILDREN NEED NOT APPLY**

President Clinton's proposed \$350 million scholarship program for teachers today to entice them to inner city and rural schools appears to be another — in a long list — of scholarships. And again, school-aged children, and their families, are left out in the cold.

Teachers are flocking to schools that afford them the autonomy to test new ways of teaching to offer a quality education for all children, whether those schools are private, parochial or charters. The problem with inner city schools is **not** a lack of good teachers drawn there, but the bureaucracy, union controls and lack of rewards for a job well done. The National Education Association even says that, "teachers and other school staff have a vital role to play in the remaking of our public schools and that charter schools provide an important opportunity for the profession."

The numerous scholarship programs the President has offered in his last term have all skirted around the subject of school choice. Unfortunately though, he has been unable to offer school children and their families the financial freedom to choose which school **they** want to attend.

"President Clinton has proposed scholarship programs for pre-schoolers, for higher education, for job training and now teachers," said Jeanne Allen, president of The Center for Education Reform, "Conspicuously absent are scholarships for school-aged children."

Mr. President. The flaw is in the system, and offering a financial reward for teachers to go to inner-city schools undermines them as individuals and professionals. You are commended for your dedication to education, but consider offering options to those families with children in grades K-12. You'll notice a tremendous difference in the quality of education offered by all teachers and administrators if there is an incentive to keep children in the local public school.

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