

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 9, 1982

Dear Bob:

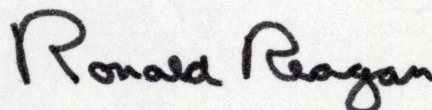
On June 22, I transmitted to the Senate proposed legislation that would allow a tax credit for tuition paid by parents who send their children to private elementary and secondary schools. The Educational Opportunity and Equity Act of 1982 (S. 2673) has my strong support and I hope it will be passed by the Congress this session.

It is of great importance to the continued vitality and diversity of our society that parents have a meaningful choice between public education and the many forms of private education that are available. The rising costs of education are threatening to put private schools beyond the reach of many families who cannot afford the "double burden" of paying private school tuitions and the State and local taxes that support the public school system. We must also bear in mind that private schools carry a significant part of the burden of providing primary and secondary school education in this country. If it becomes financially impossible for many of the families now sending their children to private schools to continue to do so, the resulting increase in public school attendance will place large and unwelcome burdens on State and local taxpayers.

This bill will help to preserve the ability of parents to choose between public and private schools. It does this in a fiscally responsible way. It also contains strong provisions that ensure that tax credits will not be used to promote racial discrimination.

As the Finance Committee begins markup of this important legislation, I ask you to support S. 2673, to assist in moving it forward expeditiously and to help enact it into law this session of Congress.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Robert Dole  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510