

Sen. Tim Scott's Powerful Speech on School Choice

Last week Senator Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) proposed an amendment to the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind bill that would allow Title I funds—the funds the federal government allocates to districts with high-poverty populations—to follow students out of their assigned district schools to schools of choice. Democrats in the Senate (joined by six Republicans) successfully fought to keep the portability amendments as well as school vouchers out of the legislation. As Think Progress explains, the White House and Senate Democrats opposed the amendment because some school districts with high concentrations of poverty would lose federal funds. This certainly seems like a plausible reason to oppose the measure. After all, who wants to harm poor school districts? But as Sen. Scott notes in an impassioned speech on the Senate floor, we must ensure our focus is in the right place—on the children, not school bureaucracies. “Education is not about protecting a bureaucracy,” says Scott. “It should not be about empowering Washington, and cannot be about an endless, fruitless push for some one-size-fits-all type of system.” Scott encouraged the Senate to allow portability and return some measure of power to the states in education, saying “Local and state leaders are figuring out that when parents have a choice, kids have a chance.” You can hear his entire speech in the video below: *Reprinted from the **Acton Institute**.*