

TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT PUBLIC EDUCATION

In the wake of an unanticipated and disruptive U.S. Supreme Court decision, Vermont lawmakers are debating whether to maintain the separation of church and state in public education funding.

Please email lawmakers asking them to support newly introduced bills, S.66 and H.258. These bills reset eligibility for public taxpayer funding of K-12 education in a way that respects the US and Vermont constitutions and holds the best promise for resolving a thorny issue delivered to Vermont's doorstep by the Supreme Court.

[H.258](#) and [S.66](#) outline how Vermont's voucher system for towns that do not operate their own public schools could work in light of the Supreme Court's *Carson v. Makin* decision. In that decision, the court's conservative majority upended the state's taxpayer funding of selective admission private schools by requiring any state that publicly funds private schools to also fund religious private schools.

H.258 and S.66 say communities that do not operate a public school can designate up to three schools that local students can choose to attend backed by taxpayer tuition payments. We believe concerns about the current law's limitation on the number of designated schools can be addressed through the legislative process. Importantly, the bill maintains the integral role of the historic academies and therapeutic schools in the Vermont public education system by including them as eligible for taxpayer supported vouchers. The bills ensure alignment with BOTH the Vermont Constitution's prohibition on compelled support and US Constitutional values, as well as accountability and transparency.

Please email your local lawmakers urging them to "Support S.66 and H.258 to maintain the separation of church and state in taxpayer funding of K-12 education."

Your lawmaker contact info is available [here](#).

These lawmakers most need to hear from their constituents:

- Senate Pro Tem [Phil Baruth](#)
- Speaker [Jill Krowinski](#)
- House Education Committee [Members](#)
- Senate Education Committee [Members](#)

The Education Equity Alliance was formed in the wake of the *Carson* decision, and is committed to transparency, accountability, and equity when it comes to taxpayer funded K-12 education. Its members include the Vermont School Boards Association, the Vermont Superintendents Association, the Vermont Principals' Association, and Vermont-NEA.

