

April 23, 2020



The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510



Dear Leader McConnell & Leader McCarthy:

As Congress works toward future legislation to mitigate the damage caused by COVID-19, we urge you to expand 529 education savings accounts so that they can be used for expenses related to learning from home.

Because of the Coronavirus threat, Americans have been forced into self-isolation and schools have been shut down. Tens of millions of students are forced to learn from home, a situation that has led to additional costs stemming from the need to implement online and distance learning. These new costs are exacerbated by the financial hardships that Americans are experiencing across the country due to a lost job, or reduction in work hours.

Congress can help families with these new expenses by expanding 529 education savings accounts to cover expenses incurred from learning from home. These expenses can include curriculum and curricular materials, books or other instructional materials, online educational materials, tuition for tutoring or educational classes outside of the home, and educational therapies for students with disabilities.

529s are already a proven way for families to meet education expenses. These tax advantaged savings accounts allow parents to save and invest after-tax income for education costs. These accounts can currently be used to cover the cost of college and K-12 expenses including tuition, fees, books, supplies, equipment, and computers.

In addition, these accounts offer significant tax reduction. Any money earned in an account can be invested tax free and funds can be withdrawn for qualified expenses tax free. Although contributions are not federally deductible, over 30 states offer a full or partial tax deduction for 529 contributions.

Because of these benefits, 529s are extremely [popular](#) amongst middle class American families. Today, there are over 14 million 529 accounts.

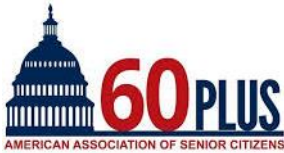
There is also support for this proposal in Congress. Congressman Bryan Steil (R-Wis.) recently led a [letter](#) signed by 13 lawmakers urging House and Senate leadership to support allowing 529s to be used for home learning expenses.

As you continue working on proposals to address the damage caused by COVID-19, we urge you to support this request. Expanding 529s should be part of the solution to helping Americans get through the pandemic by providing assistance to students and families across the country.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President, Americans for Tax Reform

Ryan Ellis
President, Center for a Free Economy





Jim Martin
Founder/Chairman, 60 Plus Association

Saulius "Saul" Anuzis
President, 60 Plus Association



Mead Treadwell
Former Lt. Governor, State of Alaska
Chair, Alaska Center-Right Meeting

Marty Connors
Alabama Center-Right Coalition Leader



Lisa B. Nelson
CEO, ALEC Action



John Schilling
President, American Federation for Children

Brent Wm. Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer, Americans for Prosperity



Kevin Waterman
Chair, Annapolis Center-Right Coalition Meeting

Jeffrey Mazzella
President, Center for Individual Freedom



Matthew Kandrach
President, Consumer Action for a Strong Economy

Olivia Grady
Senior Fellow, Center for Worker Freedom



Chuck Muth
President, Citizen Outreach (Nevada)

Andrew F. Quinlan
President, Center for Freedom and Prosperity



Timothy Head
Executive Director, Faith & Freedom Coalition

Rick Watson
Chairman, Florida Center/Right Coalition

Adam Brandon
President, FreedomWorks



Patrick Jones
Executive Director, Free California



Annette Meeks
CEO, Freedom Foundation of Minnesota

Victor Riches
President & CEO, Goldwater Institute

James Taylor
President, The Heartland Institute

Jessica Anderson
Executive Director, Heritage Action



Carrie Lukas
President, Independent Women's Forum

Heather Higgins
CEO, Independent Women's Voice



Chris Ingstad
President, Iowans for Tax Relief



Bill Mattox
Policy Director, Marshall Center for Educational Options
The James Madison Institute



Seton Motley
President, Less Government



Tim Jones
Chair, Missouri Center-Right Coalition
Fmr. Speaker, Missouri House

Ben DeGrow
Director of Education Policy, Mackinac Center



Jameson Taylor, Ph.D.
Vice President for Policy, Mississippi Center for Public Policy

Pete Sepp
President, National Taxpayers Union



The Honorable Bill O'Brien
Co-chair, New Hampshire Center Right Coalition

Bette Grande
CEO & President, Roughrider Policy Center

Representative Niraj J. Antani
District 42, Ohio House of Representatives

Brandon Dutcher
Senior Vice President, Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs





Daniel J. Erspamer
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Mike Stenhouse
CEO, Rhode Island Center for Freedom & Prosperity

Paul Gessing
President, Rio Grande Foundation



Jim Bender
President, School Choice Wisconsin

Rick Larsen
President, Sutherland Institute

David Williams
President, Taxpayers Protection Alliance



Maureen Blum
USA Workforce Coalition
#EDTaxCredit50 Coalition



CJ Szafir
Executive Vice President, Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty

