Sample Letter to the Editor

Vouchers Harm Everyone—Especially Rural Communities

While grossly underfunding our public schools, which approximately 1.4 million students attend, the North Carolina legislature has spent taxpayer money to expand a voucher program for a small percent of students, many already in private schools. Why do they favor a few at the expense of the many?

Public schools admit all children regardless of income, background, transportation challenges, beliefs, special needs—rural or urban. Private schools choose whom they admit or reject to return to public schools.

Our rural counties are hit hardest. Since public schools are the first, second, or third employer in 91 of our 100 counties, their economy is negatively impacted when schools lose students and some close--as well as when public school teachers/staff are underpaid. Fourteen counties last year had either one or no private schools, so they are sending their tax money to urban counties to pay for their school vouchers. Please halt all new funding for the voucher program!