

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

June 17, 2019

Dear Governor Wolf:

I write today regarding Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and to urge you to reconsider vetoing legislation to expand and improve the program.

You and I have both held the view that a child's access to education should not be determined by zip code or income level. Since 2001, Pennsylvania's bipartisan EITC program has helped accomplish this goal by providing millions of dollars in scholarship to tens of thousands of lower-income Pennsylvania children. For these children and their families, just a few thousand dollars in scholarship money can mean the difference between being trapped in a failing school or having the opportunity to pursue higher-quality education of their choosing.

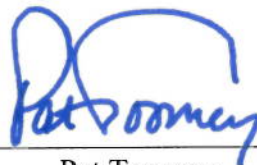
House Bill 800 would expand the EITC's benefits to thousands of additional Pennsylvania families by raising by \$100 million the cap on credits available for donations to nonprofits that provide K-12 scholarships. The bill also includes a modest increase in the income limit to qualify for the program and an escalator provision to ensure that the EITC can meet future demand.

In remarks you made last week, you reiterated your intention to veto HB800 and said, "I've seen enough to know that this is not something I think is good for Pennsylvania."

It is breathtaking that one could reach this conclusion with the knowledge that approximately 40,000 Pennsylvania children are currently on a waitlist to receive scholarships. In the 2016-17 school year, 43 percent of scholarship applicants were turned down because there were not enough scholarships available. This is not for lack of available donations: Businesses have over \$105 million on the donations waitlist. Increasing the tax credit cap would allow this funding to benefit tens of thousands of lower-income kids in the state.

The educational futures of Pennsylvania children should not be jeopardized by political games or partisan politics. I urge you to sign this legislation.

Sincerely,



Pat Toomey
United States Senator