

From the  
Pennsylvania  
Family Institute  
Michael Geer,  
President



Dear [[INITIATIVE.AUDIENCE MEMBER.FIRST NAME]],

This morning, I had the privilege of standing on the steps of the Pennsylvania Capitol, surrounded by students, families, and leaders, celebrating something truly worth marking: 25 years ago this week, Pennsylvania enacted one of the nation's earlier statewide education tax-credit programs.

But what we are really celebrating isn't a program. **It is opportunity. It is hope.**

It is the faces of children, real students, standing behind us, whose lives have been changed because someone believed they deserved a better path forward.



For 25 years, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program has helped open doors for hundreds of thousands of students across our Commonwealth. Through scholarships and educational options, families have been given something many take for granted: the ability to choose where their child learns, grows, and prepares for the future.

I've had a front-row seat to much of this journey. Years ago, I served alongside other advocates as part of the REACH Alliance — Road to Educational Achievement Through Choice. And let me tell you, it wasn't easy.

It took more than a decade to get this across the finish line. There were obstacles at every turn. Resistance. Delays. Doubts. But through it all, there was a clear vision: that every child in Pennsylvania should have the chance to learn in a safe environment, to be challenged, to be known, and to flourish.

**That vision is still what drives us today.**

Yes, the numbers matter. You'll hear them often, and they tell an important story.

Over 100,000 students are served in a single year through the EITC and OSTC programs. Tens of thousands more are still waiting because of program caps. At the same time, even with record public school spending of over \$23,000 per student, too many families still find that the system is not meeting their child's needs.

As we've written on [pafamily.org](http://pafamily.org) before, the issue isn't just funding. **It's whether families have real options when their current situation isn't working.**

But today, standing on those Capitol steps, I was reminded of something even more important than the statistics.

It's the why behind it all. It's the child. Each one created in the image of God. Each one with unique gifts, potential, and purpose. And each one deserving of our very best.

## **That's why we advocate for school choice.**

Not because of politics.

Not because of ideology.

But because families shouldn't be trapped by a zip code when it comes to their child's future. Because a child's education should fit the child, not the system. Because giving parents options isn't a threat to education — it's a pathway to renewal.

And here's the reality: the demand is growing. Families are asking for more. They are seeking environments where their children are safe, supported, and able to succeed. We know it first hand — having established one of the first EITC scholarship organizations, our Family Choice Scholarship Program — which has helped thousands of children and families with scholarships over the years — but sadly, turned away many others, because of the limits on the tax-credit funding.

### **The next step is clear.**

We must protect and strengthen the EITC program so it can meet the growing demand. Right now, tens of thousands of students are still waiting because the program is capped. That means real families, real children, are being turned away from opportunities that could change the course of their lives.

These scholarships are funded through private donations, not taxpayer dollars. They are a proven, commonsense way to expand opportunity without adding new burdens on the state.

Pennsylvania students don't need fewer options. They need more.

And that means ensuring EITC is not cut, but strengthened so more families can access the educational opportunities they are actively seeking.

For Faith, Family, and Freedom,



**Michael Geer**  
President  
*Pennsylvania Family Institute*

P.S. Right now, some lawmakers in Harrisburg are considering changes that could limit access to EITC scholarships. [Contact your State Representative and State Senator](#) right now and [urge them to protect and strengthen this program](#). Every student deserves the opportunity to succeed. Together, we can help ensure more Pennsylvania families are not left waiting.

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### **Pennsylvania Family Institute**

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