

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Hengzhi,

Thank you for contacting me regarding public education. Input from fellow Texans significantly informs my decision-making and empowers me to better represent the state.

Quality education is critical to ensuring that every child - regardless of race, ethnicity, or zip code - has an opportunity to succeed. Currently, around 90 percent of American students receive their education at a public school, meaning that the quality of our nation's public schools plays a large role in determining educational outcomes for many American students.

The U.S. Constitution leaves the responsibility for public K-12 education with the states, and this is reflected in the funding formulas for K-12 education. Today, about 92 percent of all funding for elementary and secondary schools comes from non-federal sources - the remaining eight percent is seen through federal involvement in programs through the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Agriculture.

Though it is important that we give public schools the resources they need to educate our children, unfortunately federal funding of education is often inextricably tied to federal control of education. In federal programs ranging from Common Core to School Lunch programs, we can see the harm and inefficiencies that come with federal one-size-fits-all standards for local school districts. Education is far too important an issue for a few bureaucrats in Washington to control from the top-down - instead, education standards are best determined at the state and local level.

High academic standards and accountability are important, but we should not allow the federal government to dictate what our children learn. Rather, parents - through their teachers, local schools, and state systems - should be able to direct the education of their children. We should work to restore state decision-making and accountability with respect to state academic content standards, and we must ensure that parents, not the federal government, maintain the right to determine what is best for their children.

Thank you again for sharing your views with me. Please feel free to contact me in the future about any issue important to you or your family. It is an honor to serve you and the people of Texas.

For Liberty,

Signature

Senator Ted Cruz

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