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MOST REVEREND WILLIAM E. KOENIG
BISHOP OF WILMINGTON

November 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing on behalf of the families and children of Delaware and Maryland regarding an urgent matter that would provide a tremendous opportunity for financial assistance for education. As you may be aware, the federal government has approved the opportunity in 2027 for people to receive a tax credit toward their federal tax liability of up to $1700. (or $3400. for a married couple) by contributing towards a scholarship granting organization . Any public or private school families whose income is 300% below the median income of the state (in the state of Delaware this would be anything less than $250,000) would then be able to apply to this scholarship organization for financial assistance to cover educational resources. Educational expenses that would qualify for this funding would include tuition, fees, books, academic tutoring, special needs services, computer technology, transportation and extended day programs. Once again, both public and private school children would be eligible for this assistance.

The one caveat to providing the children and families of the Delaware and Maryland with this opportunity is the need for the Governors of our states to opt into the program. I have personally met with each of our governors and am well aware of the priority they place on the education of our children. At the time of our meetings, both of our governors indicated that they had not yet decided whether or not to opt in. I am ever hopeful that they will say "yes" to this opportunity and allow more federal funding to be provided for education. Meanwhile, however, the decision of whether to opt in or not has to be made by January 1, 2027. If our states do not opt in by then, the citizens of our states would still be able to donate to a scholarship program located in another state that has opted in and they would receive a tax credit; however, the money they provided would stay in the state to which their donation was made and, therefore, our own children would not benefit from donations made by the citizens of our states.

I am, therefore, especially asking you, on behalf of the children and families of our states, to take a few minutes and reach out to the governor of your state asking him to opt in. While I have expressed to each of the governors my hope that our states seize this opportunity to provide more resources to our children, I am only one voice. For the sake of the children of our states please allow your voice to be heard by making a phone call, sending an email or writing a letter to your respective governor.

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I have no doubt that our governors want the best for our children and families. (A sample text, email, or phone script, along with contact information will be available in your parish bulletin? Posted on your parish website? next weekend.) Let us as individual voices express to our governors that we too also desire to help the children of our state to thrive and we see this federal program as one of the means through which this can be achieved.

On behalf of our children and families, I thank you.

Sincerely yours,

+ William E. Koenig

Most Reverend William E. Koenig, D.D.
Bishop of Wilmington

Federal Scholarship Tax Credit

Script

Good day! I am calling as a parent with children in school in the State of Delaware (Maryland) requesting that Governor Meyer (Moore) opt in to the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit program. This program helps children in all schools – public, charter, and private – to have additional resources necessary for their education success. As a federal taxpayer, I wish my tax credit to support education in my state.

Governor, please opt in today to the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit.

Thank you.

(Name)

Office of Governor Matt Meyer

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