



BACKGROUND:

- Republicans and Democrats agree that discrimination and state-sanctioned segregation are repugnant, illegal, and blatantly immoral. Studies have shown that integrated schools promote greater understanding, tolerance, and improved educational outcomes, particularly for students of color.
- However, **H.R. 2639 is a top-down, big-government mandate** that would have the federal government decide how best to address the issues of racial and socioeconomic isolation in America's schools.

WHERE REPUBLICANS STAND:

- Republicans believe that **expanding opportunities for students should be a priority**. School choice gives families the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and enroll their children in challenging environments that better develop their skills and intellect, encouraging them to reach higher.
 - Studies show that when students are given the freedom to attend school in a learning environment best suited to their abilities, they pursue and complete postsecondary opportunities at higher rates.

FAILINGS OF H.R. 2639:

- This bill ignores the biggest problem facing low-income students and students of color – a lack of high-quality educational options. Democrats could bring to the floor a bill that would expand the availability of charter schools or offer marginalized families the kind of educational freedom the rich exercise for themselves. Sadly, **Democrats have decided the teachers' unions are more important to them than real families who are desperate for access to a better education for their children.**
- H.R. 2639 authorizes a new grant program within the Department of Education to address the effects of racial isolation or concentrated poverty. Republicans support this goal; unfortunately, **Democrats are pursuing it in a way that will add to the federal government's long list of broken promises.**
- Democrats are pursuing a political win through H.R. 2639 instead of a substantive one. Congress has already set up the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants, a block grant created to give school districts flexibility to pursue local solutions to their communities' education challenges. Yet, **Democrats are sidestepping a bipartisan solution which would ensure that federal funds are available to nearly every school district in the country to tackle this problem.**

BOTTOM LINE:

- **Republicans want nothing more than to see all American children prosper.** School districts should take action to reduce racial and socioeconomic isolation in schools. A bipartisan path forward on this bill was possible, but Democrats would rather score political points than work with Republicans on commonsense solutions.