

The Honorable Governor Mikie Sherrill
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625-0001

Dear Governor Sherrill.

As a longstanding New Jersey resident who cares deeply about my state and its future, I write today to ask you to please give your **approval to opting New Jersey into the Federal Tax Credit for Scholarships**.

As I am sure you know, the federal tax credit will take effect on January 1, 2027 in all states in which the governor "opts in." What this means: Any New Jersey taxpayer can direct up to \$1,700 of the money they owe the IRS, to a scholarship granting organization (SGO), to be awarded as scholarships to New Jersey children seeking educational enhancements. ***But this can help NJ children only if you opt in.***

Why I urge you to "opt-in" New Jersey for the federal tax credit:

- The federal tax credit will benefit ALL Kindergarten through 12th grade children in the state with family incomes at or below 300% of the median income in their own zip code. That represents almost ALL children in the state.
- The tax credit will generate hundreds of millions of dollars annually to help close the education gap for our children.
- BOTH public and independent school children will benefit.
- These funds will be raised at NO cost to New Jersey taxpayers or school boards. This tax credit represents NEW MONEY for NJ families – for the benefit of the children who would not otherwise be able to afford educational enrichments and enhancements.
- The tax credit funds can be applied for a full range of educational enrichments; from Special Ed to music classes and SAT prep, to tuition assistance, language lessons, field trips, sports uniforms, to after-school tutoring and extended care.
- The stakes are high. If you decide NOT to opt-in New Jersey, our state's taxpayers can direct their tax credits to SGO's **outside** New Jersey, which means that hundreds of millions of dollars that would otherwise be able to help New Jersey children will **leave** the state.

I am familiar with the provisions of the tax credit in my capacity as a supporter of Tri-County Scholarship Fund, which as an accredited SGO, has been providing educational opportunity to inner-city and other financially disadvantaged New Jersey children for the past 45 years. Myself and other Tri-County board members are confident the federal tax credit will close the education gap for thousands more New Jersey children. We are further persuaded on this point knowing that the highly regarded organization, ***Democrats for Education Reform*** is **strongly in favor of the federal tax credit**.

Thank you for your consideration of the federal tax credit which I believe is a win-win-win–WIN for taxpayers, school boards, for all the children of New Jersey and for the future of our great state.

Regards,

(your name and address)