



Utah PTA White Paper

H.B. 331 -- Hope Scholarship Program (Rep. Pierucci, C.)

Creates the Hope Scholarship Program.

Utah PTA **Opposes** H.B. 331

- Status: “circled” (i.e. “parked”)

Background:

- H.B.331 establishes a *subsidy* of \$36 Million from public education funding (paid by taxpayers) to private schools and other private service providers to pay tuition based on the family income with no accountability and no transparency.

What the bill does:

- This bill subsidizes private schools up to **double** the amount public education receives per student.
- This bill has a provision to serve lower income families up to 25%.
 - Overall it is targeted at 1% of Utah students, mostly well-to-do families and ignores 99% of Utah students.

What the bill doesn't do:

- The bill does not include everyone: in fact: it excludes more than 86,000 special education students.
- The bill does not require accountability, transparency or standards.
- The bill does not require that students show any results or take any tests.

Questions to ask your legislator?

- Why would public education funds be directed at private enterprise?
- Why would families that are 5 or 10 times above the poverty line benefit from the subsidy?
- Why would you choose not to fund public education appropriately?
- Why do Special Education students have to sign away their rights to services?

Share your story:

- How has public education supported your child?
- What individual choices have you found within public education?