

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 833

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2025

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. OWENS, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. LETLOW, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. DONALDS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. FEENSTRA, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. FONG, Mr. CAREY, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ROSE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CLINE, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. BERGMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## **1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Educational Choice  
3 for Children Act of 2025”.

#### 4 SEC. 2. TAX CREDIT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCHOLAR-

## 5                   SHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS.

## 6 (a) CREDIT FOR INDIVIDUALS.—

7               (1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part IV of sub-  
8               chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code  
9               of 1986 is amended by inserting after section 25E  
10              the following new section:

**11 "SEC. 25F. QUALIFIED ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDU-  
12 CATION SCHOLARSHIPS.**

13       “(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—In the case of an in-  
14 dividual who is a citizen or resident of the United States  
15 (as defined in section 7701(a)(9)), there shall be allowed  
16 as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for  
17 the taxable year an amount equal to the aggregate amount  
18 of qualified contributions made by the taxpayer during the  
19 taxable year.

**20           “(b) LIMITATIONS.—**

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The credit allowed under subsection (a) to any taxpayer for any taxable year shall not exceed an amount equal to the greater of—

24                         “(A) 10 percent of the adjusted gross in-  
25                         come of the taxpayer for the taxable year, or

26 " (B) \$5,000.

1           “(2) ALLOCATION OF VOLUME CAP.—The credit  
2       allowed under subsection (a) to any taxpayer for any  
3       taxable year shall not exceed the amount of the vol-  
4       ume cap allocated by the Secretary to such taxpayer  
5       under section 3 of the Educational Choice for Chil-  
6       dren Act of 2025 with respect to qualified contribu-  
7       tions made by the taxpayer during the taxable year.

8           “(3) REDUCTION BASED ON STATE CREDIT.—  
9       The amount allowed as a credit under subsection (a)  
10      for a taxable year shall be reduced by the amount  
11      allowed as a credit on any State tax return of the  
12      taxpayer for qualified contributions made by the tax-  
13      payer during the taxable year.

14         “(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—  
15           “(1) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term ‘eligible  
16       student’ means an individual who—

17           “(A) is a member of a household with an  
18       income which is not greater than 300 percent  
19       of the area median gross income (as such term  
20       is used in section 42), and

21           “(B) is eligible to enroll in a public ele-  
22       mentary or secondary school.

23         “(2) QUALIFIED CONTRIBUTION.—The term  
24       ‘qualified contribution’ means a charitable contribu-  
25       tion (as defined by section 170(c)) to a scholarship

1       granting organization in the form of cash or market-  
2       able securities.

3           “(3) QUALIFIED ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY  
4       EDUCATION EXPENSE.—The term ‘qualified elemen-  
5       tary or secondary education expense’ means the fol-  
6       lowing expenses in connection with enrollment or at-  
7       tendance at, or for students enrolled at or attending,  
8       a public or private elementary or secondary school  
9       (including a religious elementary or secondary  
10      school):

11           “(A) Tuition.

12           “(B) Curricula and curricular materials.

13           “(C) Books or other instructional mate-  
14       rials.

15           “(D) Online educational materials.

16           “(E) Tuition for tutoring or educational  
17       classes outside of the home, including at a tu-  
18       toring facility, but only if the tutor or instruc-  
19       tor is not related to the student and—

20           “(i) is licensed as a teacher in any  
21       State,

22           “(ii) has taught at—

23           “(I) a public or private elemen-  
24       tary or secondary school, or

1                         “(II) an institution of higher  
2                         education (as defined in section  
3                         101(a) of the Higher Education Act  
4                         (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)), or  
5                         “(iii) is a subject matter expert in the  
6                         relevant subject.

7                         “(F) Fees for a nationally standardized  
8                         norm-referenced achievement test, an advanced  
9                         placement examination, or any examinations re-  
10                         lated to admission to an institution of higher  
11                         education.

12                         “(G) Fees for dual enrollment in an insti-  
13                         tution of higher education.

14                         “(H) Educational therapies for students  
15                         with disabilities provided by a licensed or ac-  
16                         credited practitioner or provider, including oc-  
17                         cupational, behavioral, physical, and speech-lan-  
18                         guage therapies.

19                         Such term shall include expenses for the purposes  
20                         described in subparagraphs (A) through (H) in con-  
21                         nection with a home school (whether treated as a  
22                         home school or a private school for purposes of ap-  
23                         plicable State law).

1               “(4) SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZA-  
2       TION.—The term ‘scholarship granting organization’  
3       means any organization—

4               “(A) which—

5               “(i) is described in section 501(c)(3)  
6       and exempt from tax under section 501(a),  
7       and

8               “(ii) is not a private foundation,

9               “(B) substantially all of the activities of  
10       which are providing scholarships for qualified  
11       elementary or secondary education expenses of  
12       eligible students,

13               “(C) which prevents the co-mingling of  
14       qualified contributions with other amounts by  
15       maintaining one or more separate accounts ex-  
16       clusively for qualified contributions, and

17               “(D) which either—

18               “(i) meets the requirements of sub-  
19       section (d), or

20               “(ii) pursuant to State law, was able  
21       (as of the date of the enactment of this  
22       section) to receive contributions that are  
23       eligible for a State tax credit if such con-  
24       tributions are used by the organization to  
25       provide scholarships to individual elemen-

1               tary and secondary students, including  
2               scholarships for attending private schools.

3               **“(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING  
4 ORGANIZATIONS.—**

5               **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**An organization meets the  
6               requirements of this subsection if—

7               **“(A)** such organization provides scholar-  
8               ships to 2 or more students, provided that not  
9               all such students attend the same school,

10               **“(B)** such organization does not provide  
11               scholarships for any expenses other than qualifi-  
12               cated elementary or secondary education ex-  
13               penses,

14               **“(C)** such organization provides a scholar-  
15               ship to eligible students with a priority for—

16               **“(i)** students awarded a scholarship  
17               the previous school year, and

18               **“(ii)** after application of clause (i),  
19               any such students who have a sibling who  
20               was awarded a scholarship from such orga-  
21               nization,

22               **“(D)** such organization does not earmark  
23               or set aside contributions for scholarships on  
24               behalf of any particular student,

1               “(E) such organization takes appropriate  
2       steps to verify the annual household income and  
3       family size of eligible students to whom it  
4       awards scholarships, and limits them to a mem-  
5       ber of a household for which the income does  
6       not exceed the amount established under sub-  
7       section (c)(1)(A),

8               “(F) such organization—

9               “(i) obtains from an independent cer-  
10       tified public accountant annual financial  
11       and compliance audits, and

12               “(ii) certifies to the Secretary (at such  
13       time, and in such form and manner, as the  
14       Secretary may prescribe) that the audit de-  
15       scribed in clause (i) has been completed,  
16       and

17               “(G) no officer or board member of such  
18       organization has been convicted of a felony.

19               “(2) INCOME VERIFICATION.—For purposes of  
20       paragraph (1)(E), review of all of the following (as  
21       applicable) shall be treated as satisfying the require-  
22       ment to take appropriate steps to verify annual  
23       household income:

1                 “(A) Federal and State income tax returns  
2                 or tax return transcripts with applicable schedules  
3                 for the taxable year prior to application.

4                 “(B) Income reporting statements for tax  
5                 purposes or wage and income transcripts from  
6                 the Internal Revenue Service.

7                 “(C) Notarized income verification letter  
8                 from employers.

9                 “(D) Unemployment or workers compensation  
10                 statements.

11                 “(E) Budget letters regarding public assistance payments and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payments including a list of household members.

15                 “(3) INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(F), the term ‘independent certified public accountant’ means, with respect to an organization, a certified public accountant who is not a person described in section 465(b)(3)(A) with respect to such organization or any employee of such organization.

22                 “(4) PROHIBITION ON SELF-DEALING.—

23                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A scholarship granting organization may not award a scholarship  
24                 to any disqualified person.

1                 “(B) DISQUALIFIED PERSON.—For pur-  
2                 poses of this paragraph, a disqualified person  
3                 shall be determined pursuant to rules similar to  
4                 the rules of section 4946.

5                 “(e) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Any qualified  
6                 contribution for which a credit is allowed under this sec-  
7                 tion shall not be taken into account as a charitable con-  
8                 tribution for purposes of section 170.

9                 “(f) CARRYFORWARD OF UNUSED CREDIT.—

10                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If the credit allowable  
11                 under subsection (a) for any taxable year exceeds  
12                 the limitation imposed by section 26(a) for such tax-  
13                 able year reduced by the sum of the credits allowable  
14                 under this subpart (other than this section, section  
15                 23, and section 25D), such excess shall be carried to  
16                 the succeeding taxable year and added to the credit  
17                 allowable under subsection (a) for such taxable year.

18                 “(2) LIMITATION.—No credit may be carried  
19                 forward under this subsection to any taxable year  
20                 following the fifth taxable year after the taxable year  
21                 in which the credit arose. For purposes of the pre-  
22                 ceding sentence, credits shall be treated as used on  
23                 a first-in first-out basis.”.

24                 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

“Sec. 25F. Qualified elementary and secondary education scholarships.”.

8 (b) CREDIT FOR CORPORATIONS.—

## 13 "SEC. 45BB. CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING

## 14 ORGANIZATIONS.

“(a) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of section 38,  
in the case of a corporation, the education scholarship  
credit determined under this section for the taxable year  
is the aggregate amount of qualified contributions for the  
taxable year.

20        "(b) AMOUNT OF CREDIT.—The credit allowed under  
21 subsection (a) for any taxable year shall not exceed 5 per-  
22 cent of the taxable income (as defined in section  
23 170(b)(2)(D)) of the corporation for such taxable year.

1       “(c) QUALIFIED CONTRIBUTIONS.—For purposes of  
2 this section, the term ‘qualified contribution’ has the  
3 meaning given such term under section 25F.

4       “(d) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—No deduction  
5 shall be allowed under any provision of this chapter for  
6 any expense for which a credit is allowed under this sec-  
7 tion.

8       “(e) APPLICATION OF VOLUME CAP.—A qualified  
9 contribution shall be taken into account under this section  
10 only if such contribution is not in excess of the volume  
11 cap established under section 3 of the Educational Choice  
12 for Children Act of 2025.”.

13           (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section  
14 38(b) of such Code is amended by striking “plus” at  
15 the end of paragraph (40), by striking the period  
16 and inserting “, plus” at the end of paragraph (41),  
17 and by adding at the end the following new para-  
18 graph:

19           “(42) the education scholarship credit deter-  
20 mined under section 45BB(a).”.

21           (3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
22 tions for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of  
23 chapter 1 of such Code is amended by adding at the  
24 end the following new item:

“Sec. 45BB. Contributions to scholarship granting organizations.”.

1       (c) FAILURE OF SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANI-  
2 ZATIONS TO MAKE DISTRIBUTIONS.—

3           (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 42 of such Code is  
4       amended by adding at the end the following new  
5       subchapter:

6       **“Subchapter I—Scholarship Granting  
7           Organizations**

“Sec. 4969. Failure to distribute receipts.

8       **“SEC. 4969. FAILURE TO DISTRIBUTE RECEIPTS.**

9           “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any scholarship  
10      granting organization (as defined in section 25F) which  
11      has been determined by the Secretary to have failed to  
12      satisfy the requirement under subsection (b) for any tax-  
13      able year, any contribution made to such organization dur-  
14      ing the first taxable year beginning after the date of such  
15      determination shall not be treated as a qualified contribu-  
16      tion (as defined in section 25F(c)(2)) for purposes of sec-  
17      tions 25F and 45BB.

18           “(b) REQUIREMENT.—The requirement described in  
19      this subsection is that the amount of receipts of the schol-  
20      arship granting organization for the taxable year which  
21      are distributed before the distribution deadline with re-  
22      spect to such receipts shall not be less than the required  
23      distribution amount with respect to such taxable year.

24           “(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

## 1       “(1) REQUIRED DISTRIBUTION AMOUNT.—

2                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The required distribution amount with respect to a taxable year is the amount equal to 100 percent of the total receipts of the scholarship granting organization for such taxable year—

7                         “(i) reduced by the sum of such receipts that are retained for reasonable administrative expenses for the taxable year or are carried to the succeeding taxable year under subparagraph (C), and

12                         “(ii) increased by the amount of the carryover under subparagraph (C) from the preceding taxable year.

15                 “(B) SAFE HARBOR FOR REASONABLE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(i), if the percentage of total receipts of a scholarship granting organization for a taxable year which are used for administrative purposes is equal to or less than 10 percent, such expenses shall be deemed to be reasonable for purposes of such subparagraph.

23                 “(C) CARRYOVER.—With respect to the amount of the total receipts of a scholarship granting organization with respect to any tax-

1           able year, an amount not greater than 15 per-  
2           cent of such amount may, at the election of  
3           such organization, be carried to the succeeding  
4           taxable year.

5           “(2) DISTRIBUTIONS.—The term ‘distribution’  
6           includes amounts which are formally committed but  
7           not distributed. A formal commitment described in  
8           the preceding sentence may include contributions set  
9           aside for eligible students for more than one year.

10          “(3) DISTRIBUTION DEADLINE.—The distribu-  
11          tion deadline with respect to receipts for a taxable  
12          year is the first day of the third taxable year fol-  
13          lowing the taxable year in which such receipts are  
14          received by the scholarship granting organization.”.

15          (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sub-  
16          chapters for chapter 42 of such Code is amended by  
17          adding at the end the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER I. SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS”.

18          (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
19          this section shall apply to taxable years ending after De-  
20          cember 31, 2025.

21          **SEC. 3. VOLUME CAP.**

22          (a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of sections  
23          25F(b)(2) and 45BB(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
24          1986 (as added by this Act), the volume cap applicable  
25          under this section shall be \$10,000,000,000 for calendar

1 year 2026 and each subsequent year thereafter. Such  
2 amount shall be allocated by the Secretary as provided in  
3 subsection (b) to taxpayers with respect to qualified con-  
4 tributions made by such taxpayers, except that 10 percent  
5 of such amount shall be divided evenly among the States,  
6 and shall be available with respect to—

7                 (1) individuals residing in such States to claim  
8                 the credit allowed under section 25F of the Internal  
9                 Revenue Code of 1986, and

10                 (2) corporations created or organized in such  
11                 State to claim the credit determined under section  
12                 45BB of such Code.

13                 (b) FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE.—For purposes of  
14 applying the volume cap under this section, such volume  
15 cap for any calendar year shall be allocated by the Sec-  
16 retary on a first-come, first-serve basis, as determined  
17 based on the time (during such calendar year) at which  
18 the taxpayer made the qualified contribution with respect  
19 to which the allocation is made. The Secretary shall not  
20 make any allocation of volume cap for any calendar year  
21 after December 31 of such calendar year.

22                 (c) REAL-TIME INFORMATION.—For purposes of this  
23 section, the Secretary shall develop a system to track the  
24 amount of qualified contributions made during the cal-  
25 endar year for which a credit may be claimed under sec-

1 tion 25F or 45BB of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,  
2 with such information to be updated in real time.

3 (d) ANNUAL INCREASES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of the calendar  
5 year after a high use calendar year, the dollar  
6 amount otherwise in effect under subsection (a) for  
7 such calendar year shall be equal to 105 percent of  
8 the dollar amount in effect for such high use cal-  
9 endar year.

10 (2) HIGH USE CALENDAR YEAR.—For purposes  
11 of this subsection, the term “high use calendar  
12 year” means any calendar year for which 90 percent  
13 or more of the volume cap in effect for such cal-  
14 endar year under subsection (a) is allocated to tax-  
15 payers.

16 (3) PREVENTION OF DECREASES IN ANNUAL  
17 VOLUME CAP.—The volume cap in effect under sub-  
18 section (a) for any calendar year shall not be less  
19 than the volume cap in effect under such subsection  
20 for the preceding calendar year.

21 (4) PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL VOLUME CAP.—  
22 The Secretary shall make publicly available the dol-  
23 lar amount of the volume cap in effect under sub-  
24 section (a) for each calendar year.

1       (e) STATES.—For purposes of this section, the term  
2    “State” includes the District of Columbia.

3   **SEC. 4. EXEMPTION FROM GROSS INCOME FOR SCHOLAR-**  
4                   **SHIPS FOR QUALIFIED ELEMENTARY OR SEC-**  
5                   **ONDARY EDUCATION EXPENSES OF ELIGIBLE**  
6                   **STUDENTS.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting before section 140 the following new section:  
10   **“SEC. 139J. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR QUALIFIED ELEMENTARY**  
11                   **OR SECONDARY EDUCATION EXPENSES OF**  
12                   **ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.**

13       “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual, gross income shall not include any amounts provided to any dependent of such individual pursuant to a scholarship for qualified elementary or secondary education expenses of an eligible student which is provided by a scholarship granting organization.

19       “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘qualified elementary or secondary education expense’, ‘eligible student’, and ‘scholarship granting organization’ have the same meaning given such terms under section 25F(c).”.

23       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting be-

1 fore the item relating to section 140 the following new  
2 item:

“See. 139J. Scholarships for qualified elementary or secondary education ex-  
penses of eligible students.”.

3 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
4 this section shall apply to amounts received after Decem-  
5 ber 31, 2025, in taxable years ending after such date.

6 **SEC. 5. ORGANIZATIONAL AND PARENTAL AUTONOMY.**

7 (a) PROHIBITION OF CONTROL OVER SCHOLARSHIP  
8 ORGANIZATIONS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—

10 (A) TREATMENT.—A scholarship granting  
11 organization shall not, by virtue of participation  
12 under any provision of this Act or any amend-  
13 ment made by this Act, be regarded as acting  
14 on behalf of any governmental entity.

15 (B) NO GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL.—Noth-  
16 ing in this Act, or any amendment made by this  
17 Act, shall be construed to permit, allow, encour-  
18 age, or authorize any Federal, State, or local  
19 government entity, or officer or employee there-  
20 of, to mandate, direct, or control any aspect of  
21 any scholarship granting organization.

22 (C) MAXIMUM FREEDOM.—To the extent  
23 permissible by law, this Act, and any amend-  
24 ment made by this Act, shall be construed to

allow scholarship granting organizations maximum freedom to provide for the needs of the participants without governmental control.

24 (C) No EXCLUSION OF QUALIFIED EX-  
25 PENSES DUE TO INSTITUTION'S RELIGIOUS

1           CHARACTER OR AFFILIATION.—No Federal,  
2           State, or local government entity, or officer or  
3           employee thereof, shall exclude, discriminate  
4           against, or otherwise disadvantage any elemen-  
5           tary or secondary education institution with re-  
6           spect to qualified elementary or secondary edu-  
7           cation expenses at that institution based in  
8           whole or in part on the institution’s religious  
9           character or affiliation, including religiously  
10          based or mission-based policies or practices.

11         (3) PARENTAL RIGHTS TO USE SCHOLAR-  
12          SHIPS.—No Federal, State, or local government en-  
13          tity, or officer or employee thereof, shall disfavor or  
14          discourage the use of scholarships granted by par-  
15          ticipating scholarship granting organizations for  
16          qualified elementary or secondary education ex-  
17          penses at private or nonprofit elementary and sec-  
18          ondary education institutions, including faith-based  
19          schools.

20         (4) PARENTAL RIGHT TO INTERVENE.—In any  
21          action filed in any State or Federal court which  
22          challenges the constitutionality (under the constitu-  
23          tion of such State or the Constitution of the United  
24          States) of any provision of this Act (or any amend-  
25          ment made by this Act), any parent of an eligible

1 student who has received a scholarship from a schol-  
2 arship granting organization shall have the right to  
3 intervene in support of the constitutionality of such  
4 provision or amendment. To avoid duplication of ef-  
5 forts and reduce the burdens placed on the parties  
6 to the action, the court in any such action may re-  
7 quire interveners taking similar positions to file joint  
8 papers or to be represented by a single attorney at  
9 oral argument, provided that the court does not re-  
10 quire such interveners to join any brief filed on be-  
11 half of any State which is a defendant in such ac-  
12 tion.

13 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the  
14 terms “eligible student”, “scholarship granting organiza-  
15 tion”, and “qualified elementary or secondary education  
16 expense” shall have the same meanings given such terms  
17 under section 25F(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
18 1986 (as added by section 2(a) of this Act).

