

The universal EdChoice voucher scheme: Ohio citizens, contrary to the Ohio Constitution, are being forced to support religious views with which they may not agree.

The EdChoice voucher works this way. Ninety percent of the private schools in Ohio are operated by religious institutions. Current law provides tax funds to provide school vouchers. A portion of everyone's tax funds provides a subsidy for the religious institutions which operate private schools. This is contrary to Article 1, section 7 of the Ohio Constitution:

All men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own conscience. No person shall be compelled to attend, erect, or support any place of worship, or maintain any form of worship, against his consent; and no preference shall be given, by law, to any religious society; nor shall any interference with the rights of conscience be permitted. No religious test shall be required, as a qualification for office, nor shall any person be 2 The Constitution of the State of Ohio incompetent to be a witness on account of his religious belief; but nothing herein shall be construed to dispense with oaths and affirmations. Religion, morality, and knowledge, however, being essential to good government, it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to pass suitable laws, to protect every religious denomination in the peaceable enjoyment of its own mode of public worship, and to encourage schools and the means of instruction.

“NO PERSON SHALL BE COMPELLED TO ATTEND, ERECT, OR SUPPORT ANY PLACE OF WORSHIP, OR MAINTAIN ANY FORM OF WORSHIP, AGAINST HIS CONSENT.” (Article 1, section 7)

Ohioans should be outraged that state officials have enacted this unconstitutional scheme.

This scenario can be likened to the following:

A citizen receives a bill from a neighborhood private religious institution, with a note that the government authorized the institution to collect payments to the institution for providing religious education at the neighborhood private school. Would citizens make the payment? Most likely not. Citizens would likely go to the court to stop this practice.

This is one of the reasons the Coalition/VHO is challenging the constitutionality of the EdChoice voucher scheme.