

STOP D.C. VOUCHERS NEWS RELEASE

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www.stopdcouchers.org

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Stop DC Vouchers Applauds The Expected Cropp-Fenty Resolution Opposing Vouchers

Group Urges Residents to Continue the 250 email/petition push and Flood Council with Calls Supporting No Deal To Swap Voucher Approval for Public Schools Funding.

Washington, D.C. -- Staff in the offices of both D.C. Council Chair Linda Cropp (D- At large) and Councilmember Adrian Fenty (D- Ward 4) today indicated that the two Councilmembers are expected tomorrow, Tuesday, July 8, to co-introduce an anti-voucher sense-of-the-council resolution in the Council's final legislative session of the year. Stop D.C. Vouchers applauds this move by the Council.

"This is democracy in action and given the congressional mark-up of the voucher bill this week, it is a sound strategic move that should leave Congress in no doubt as to how Washington, D.C. residents feel about school vouchers. Rep. Davis, by pushing this voucher bill, is ignoring D.C.'s 1981 referendum against vouchers and ignoring the polls of late 2002 that reflect D.C. residents' opposition to vouchers. If and when the Council voices the will of the people by approving the Cropp-Fenty resolution - Mr. Davis and Congress will have to pay attention and drop their incessant push for school vouchers in D.C. Three cheers for the real representatives of the people - Councilmembers Cropp and Fenty" stated Melody Webb, a DCPS parent who runs Stop D.C. Vouchers, a grass-roots and online effort to organize residents to fight the attempted institution of vouchers in D.C.. Ms. Webb is an attorney who works to reform the D.C. public schools.

Stop D.C. Vouchers urges officials to reject any deals that are offered to grant funds for public schools in exchange for city official's support of any taxpayer-funded private school tuition grants plan by Congress. Recent news reports indicate that Councilmember Chavous (D - Ward 7), one of three local officials publicly on record in support of vouchers, will support an anti-voucher resolution in the Council. However, Councilmember Chavous is expected to oppose vouchers only for as long as Congress fails to include in its plan dollars for the city's public traditional and charter schools. "There should be no quid pro quo. City officials must do right by our children and reject any deal that includes vouchers. If vouchers are bad in a voucher-only plan; then they are bad in a voucher plus public school funding scheme. Bad is bad. Period." stated Ms. Webb.

Representative Tom Davis' (R- Virginia - 11th) Government Reform Committee is expected to hold a mark-up to revise the school voucher bill, HR-2556, on Thursday, July 10 in the Rayburn House Office Building. A time has not yet been announced. For more information on the time and date, please contact Mr. Davis Government Reform Committee at (202) 225-5074. Those who are able are urged to attend the congressional mark-up of the voucher bill.

Using stopdcvouchers.org, D.C. residents and public education supporters all over the country have submitted over 250 emails and petition signatures combined showing their determination to keep a voucher plan out of D.C.

Stop D.C. Vouchers is advising residents and pro-public education advocates to flood the City Council with support for the anti-voucher resolution by either calling, writing, faxing or dropping by the offices of their Councilmembers. They are also urged to continue to use the website www.stopdcvouchers.org to register their opposition to vouchers. Those who can are urged to try to attend the July 8 Council legislative session at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, where the vote on the anti-voucher resolution is expected to occur sometime between late morning on and late afternoon on Tuesday July 8. The Council session can be viewed live online at www.dccouncil.us ; click on "agenda available today".