



*Better Funding for
Better Schools Coalition*

April 22, 2010

SB2494 creates the Illinois School Choice Program, another slick title for **VOUCHERS!**

The bill proposes that the State Board of Education shall administer this program which provides that any state-certified non-public school may enroll eligible students and be reimbursed by the state. The bill goes on to specify eligibility requirements, reporting requirements, calculation of the voucher reimbursement and parental household income verification. In addition, the bill provides for the adoption of administrative rules by the Illinois State Board of Education. Finally, the bill as amended would make this a "pilot program" in Chicago only.

Be assured, if vouchers become the law of the land in Chicago, it is only a matter of time before **VOUCHERS** reach **EVERY** school district in Illinois.

The Better Funding for Better Schools Coalition opposes this bill as it drains funds from our already underfunded public schools. The Illinois Constitution, particularly in Revenue Article X, provides funds for **PUBLIC SCHOOLS** not for the purpose of providing revenue to sectarian school systems. Finally, no empirical evidence demonstrates that existing voucher programs in Washington, DC, Milwaukee, WI and Florida have done nothing to enhance or improve student achievement.

The Better Funding for Better Schools Coalition thanks those Senators who voted **NO** on SB2494. We urge every member of the Illinois House of Representatives to vote **NO** on SB2494 as well.

Barb Quinn, Chairman