

## SAY NO TO HOUSE BILL 1003 – THE SCHOOL VOUCHER BILL

1. This bill is different. It will shatter the barrier between church and state in K-12 schools observed since the 1851 Constitution.
2. It will blur the line between athletic recruiting and granting vouchers to attend private schools with powerhouse athletic programs, all paid for by taxpayers.
3. This is not a low-income plan. It gives a voucher of as much as \$4000 to a family of four making \$81,000.
4. It will divert \$74 million from public schools to private schools if 20,000 students switch to fill seats available at private/parochial schools. When public school budgets are being flat-lined, this is not the time to undermine these budgets in this way.
5. It raises the private school scholarship tax credit from 50% to 80%. When falling revenue has put public school budgets in a tailspin, this is not the time to add a tax cut to benefit private schools.
6. Public schools are open to all, including the disabled. Private schools are not.
7. Public schools have been the bedrock of our democracy for over a hundred years.
8. Public schools are centers of the community. Switching to private school funding will fragment the community along religious, philosophical and socio-economic lines.
9. The bill does not require private schools to be state accredited to get tax money.
10. The bill undermines public education and will slowly drain the public schools of Indiana. As Milton Friedman, the inventor of the voucher plan, wrote in Free to Choose: "The possibility exists that some public schools would be left with the dregs."