



School choice leads to segregation

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Re: "School choice is good for California" (Jan. 27).

It is unfortunate that a legislator does so little research. Bob Huff mentioned the Cato Institute, and claimed that nobody else has written about school choice, though a quick search reveals that the New York Times, Salon, Baltimore Sun, ACLU, and National Review have all written extensively about the failure of a variety of types of school choice institutions.

As you well know, public schools have no choice in whom to admit, nor what services to provide, whereas choice schools and lotteries tend to do. California's public middle and high schools have the largest class sizes in the United States, and possibly the most diverse students. School choice leads to segregation, whether ethnic, or socio-economic.

Another important point is the recent lawsuit in Chino Valley regarding prayer in board meetings. I wonder how much that affected the recent article. Vouchers have led to some religiously-based schools that do not teach science, technology, engineering and mathematics education courses (STEM) as they are more inclined to ignore science.

Nationwide studies also indicate that charters and vouchers perform worse than public schools overall. Parent trigger schools in California have largely been a failure. There is hardly a teacher who disagrees with the fact that we can do better to educate our students, and hardly a teacher not trying their best to do so in a continuous struggle against the political currents impoverishing our youth.

However, the education environment is far too politicized and driven by individuals such as Mr. Huff, who have little knowledge but are quick to judge.