



Voucher Advocates Launch Telephone Campaign in Support of SB 372

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Bill Duncan

Milton Friedman, the godfather of private school vouchers, said in his famous paper, [Public Schools: Make Them Private](#), "Vouchers are not an end in themselves; they are a means to make a transition from a government to a free-market system."

Now, [The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice](#), the engine behind the national effort to privatize public schools, has mounted a telephone campaign in New Hampshire to build a veto-proof majority for the big vote in the House this Wednesday (May 16, though it could be Tuesday or Thursday as well) on the New Hampshire's tax credit-funded voucher bill - a bill originally drafted by staff from the [Alliance for the Separation of School and State](#) and [the Cato Institute](#).

In other words, these and other national groups have ganged up to have their way with 'il ol' New Hampshire. All this outside attention is an effort to make New Hampshire another poster child in the national effort to privatize public schools.

This was not a program needed in New Hampshire or supported by New Hampshire voters ([as confirmed by the UNH Granite State Poll](#)). It has been pushed by temporary legislators (meaning "liberty" freshmen swept into office in the 2010 Tea Party wave and leaving after one term) Sen. [Jim Forsythe](#) and Rep. Greg Hill.

The Friedman group seems to feel that the New Hampshire voucher plan would not stand on its own merits, because the calling script misrepresents it. One recipient of these calls reports, "I just received a phone call telling me I can help poor children get out of underperforming schools by supporting SB 372/HB 1607." The caller then offered to patch her directly into her representative's phone!

Actually, poor families do not benefit much under the plan. Families with annual incomes up to \$67,000 for a family of four can receive vouchers. Nor could truly low income families afford to supplement the \$2,500 voucher to pay New Hampshire private school tuitions.

As to "underperforming schools," New Hampshire's public education system ranks in the top two in the country. It's fair to say that a voter who called her representative based on that kind of information would have been misled into making the call.

Have you received a call?