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Education Law Center's Legal Director Maura McInerney issued the following statement following today's U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue*.

"We are disappointed that today's U.S. Supreme Court ruling obligates taxpayers to fund private religious schools that can and do discriminate against students based on disability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, socioeconomic status, and other biases. Such programs also contribute to racial and socioeconomic segregation. In addition, such voucher programs divert public funds away from public schools and limit the ability of public schools to provide a free, high-quality education for all students."

"While Pennsylvania's constitution prohibits the use of state education dollars for religious purposes, we are concerned about the use of tax credit programs like EITC and OSTC. At a time when many of our public schools in Pennsylvania are woefully underfunded, tax credit programs like EITC and OSTC divert money to fund student scholarships in religious and other private schools without any protections against discrimination of students, limited analysis or oversight, and no evidence that private school scholarships improve student academic outcomes. Pennsylvania should not support a discriminatory system that serves private schools at the expense of our public schools and children of color, students with disabilities, LGBTQ students, and others. Rather, we must commit our public funding to educate students in public schools that provide safe, nurturing and welcoming environments and a quality education for all students."

"As long as private schools discriminate against students and undermine the ability of public schools to serve all children, ELC will remain opposed to these programs and efforts to privatize our public education system."

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The Education Law Center-PA (ELC) is a nonprofit, legal advocacy organization with offices in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, dedicated to ensuring that all children in Pennsylvania have access to a quality public education. Through legal representation, impact litigation, trainings, and policy advocacy, ELC advances the rights of underserved children, including children living in poverty, children of color, children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, children with disabilities, English learners, LGBTQ students, and children experiencing homelessness. For more information, visit [elc-pa.org](http://elc-pa.org).

Ensuring that all of Pennsylvania's children have equal access to a quality public education.