

**PRESS ADVISORY**

Date: June 27, 1996

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As the National Education Association (NEA) convenes for its 1996 annual convention at the Washington Convention Center, the Coalition to Educate America, an ad hoc group of leading education policy specialists, warns that the NEA may be the leading opponent of efforts to reform our nation's failing public schools.

According to Charlene Haar, a former NEA affiliate officer who now serves as President of the non-profit Education Policy Institute, "real advocates for children have been fighting the NEA for twenty years. Earlier this year, the NEA successfully blocked a school-choice program for low-income youth in our nation's capital and it continues to fight promising school reforms nation-wide. Despite NEA rhetoric about our children's future, the union continues to put its special interests ahead of the pressing educational needs of our nation's youth."

Dr. John Berthoud, Vice President of the Alexis de Tocqueville Institution, argues that the "NEA has become one of the most powerful constituencies in America, spending \$39 million annually on 1,500 field organizers around the country."

In fact, this year, the NEA will send more delegates to the Democratic convention than any other interest group or state.

In conjunction with the NEA's annual meeting, the Coalition will hold a press conference to release these and other findings, Monday, July 1, featuring:

Armstrong Williams, Syndicated columnist and radio-talk show host

Clint Bolick, Vice President and Director of Litigation, Institute for Justice, John Berthoud, Vice President, Alexis de Tocqueville Institution, Charlene Haar, President, Education Policy Institute

Raymond LaJeunesse, Jr., Senior Staff Attorney, National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, Allyson Tucker, Executive Director, Individual Rights Foundation

Parents whose children would have benefited from the D.C. scholarships that the NEA so bitterly fought will also be on hand to offer their perspective.

Monday, July 1, 1996

9:30 A.M.

The National Press Club

Edward R. Murrow Room -- 13th Floor

14th and F Streets, NW

Washington, D.C.