

# The Washington Post

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### *Vouching for Milwaukee and the District*

In her May 7 letter, Milwaukee school board member Jennifer Morales, expressed dismay at the support for school vouchers among District leaders. But support for school choice is widespread in Milwaukee.

A 1999 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel poll found that 60 percent of those surveyed – and 74 percent of African Americans and 77 percent of Hispanics – favored vouchers. Milwaukee’s mayor, county executive and school superintendent are in favor of the city’s 13-year-old voucher program.

According to a 2001 study by noted Harvard economist, Caroline M. Hoxby, “An evaluation of Milwaukee suggests that public schools have a strong, positive response to competition from vouchers.

Schools that faced the most potential competition from vouchers had the best productivity response.”

Ms. Morales said “Voucher proponents make many claims: Vouchers will revitalize the city, boost achievement in the public schools and free low-income children from failing schools.” Milwaukee residents make these claims because they are true, and the D.C. Mayor and Board President should be applauded for wanting these improvements for the families in their city.

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