



African American Ministers Alliance For Parental Choice

A PETITION To the Florida NAACP

Please withdraw from lawsuit against more than 78,000 schoolchildren

More than 78,000 low-income schoolchildren, 23,000 of whom are black, would be removed from private schools that are working for them if a legal challenge to the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship is successful. These children are thriving, many of them using the scholarships to attend faith-based schools whose very mission is to restore their educational dreams. And, yet, the Florida State Conferences of Branches of NAACP is trying to shut the door on them.

Without seeking a vote of NAACP chapter members or the counsel of faith leaders in communities across this state, the NAACP state board joined with the Florida Education Association on August 28, 2014, to file this lawsuit. Even after a circuit judge tossed out the suit on May 18, 2015, and educational groups representing elected school boards and public school principals withdrew, the NAACP has remained a plaintiff to appeal the decision to higher courts.

We respectfully call on NAACP Florida President Adora Obi Nweze and the state board to withdraw from this lawsuit. We see no principled reason to fight an education program that is targeted exclusively at low-income children and has a 14-year track record of helping black students succeed. We believe in public education, and believe this scholarship makes it stronger. We agree with Martin Luther King III, who traveled to Tallahassee in January to call for an end to this lawsuit and said he sees no conflict with traditional public schools: "It's not an either-or. It should never have been framed that way. The question is, what is the best thing for the kids?"

This scholarship breathes life into our commitment for equal opportunity, civil rights and social justice. And we hereby urge the Florida State Conferences of Branches of NAACP to withdraw from McCall v. Scott, a case that seeks to strip this option from children who desperately need it.

Signed by,

Bishop Victor Curry, New Birth Baptist Church, Miami

Pastor Kenneth Duke, New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Miami

Bishop Vaughn McLaughlin, The Potter's House International Ministries, Jacksonville

Bishop Clarence E. Glover, Mount Bethel Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale

Bishop Charles Young, Deliverance Tabernacle Christian Center, Pensacola

Reverend Dr. R. B. Holmes, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Tallahassee

Pastor Mark Coats, Grace of God Baptist Church, Miami

Pastor R.B. Lane, Refuge Church, Aquila
Pastor Darryl Forehand, Emmanuel Temple, Clermont
Senior Pastor Johnnie Merrick, New Bethlehem AME Church, Daytona Beach
Reverend Lori Snell, Allen Chapel AME Church, Fort Myers
Senior Pastor Frank C. James, Bethel AME Church, Gainesville
Pastor Michael Williams, Refuge Church, Gainesville
Reverend Regina Womack, AME Church, Gainesville
Bishop Willie A. Battles, Unity Temple of Deliverance, Gainesville
Pastor Roosevelt N. Rogers, Older Jerusalem MB Church, Havana
Pastor Alesia S. Ford-Burse, St. James AME Orange Park, Jacksonville
Bishop Antonio Richardson, New Life Evangelistic Center, Jacksonville
Senior Pastor Cedric Lauchner, Everlasting Life Church Fellowship, Jacksonville
Pastor Charles M. Jones, Jr, Collins Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Jacksonville
Senior Pastor Ernest Folston, Jr. Kingdom Christian Fellowship, Jacksonville
Senior Pastor Frank Key, Thy Will Ministries, Jacksonville
Bishop Gentle Groover, Greater Refuge Temple, Jacksonville
Senior Pastor Herbert Bartley, River of Life Ministries, Jacksonville
Minister Lewis Williams, Household of Faith, Jacksonville
Reverend R.L. Grundy, Mount Sinai MB Church, Jacksonville
Senior Pastor Robert Brown, Builders of the Faith, Jacksonville
Senior Pastor Steve Wildman, Real Life Christian Fellowship, Jacksonville
Pastor Tan C. Moss, Greater Memorial AME Church, Jacksonville
Senior Pastor Tom McLeod, Go To Nations Ministries, Jacksonville
Elder Tony Hansberry, AME Church, Jacksonville
Senior Pastor Eddie Lakes, New Bethel AME Church, Lakeland
Pastor Van Green, St. Mark AME Church, Lakeland
Pastor Albert Bivens, Jr., Greater New Bethel AME, Live Oak
Pastor Adenet Medacier, Shalom Community Church, Miami
Pastor Al Jackson, Jr., Greater New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Miami
Pastor Anthony Tate, New Resurrection Community Church, Miami
Pastor Bill Long, South Dade Baptist Church, Miami

Pastor Carol Nash Lester, Bethel Apostolic Temple, Miami
Senior Pastor Cecil Lamb, Spirit of Christ Church, Miami
Reverend Charles Lee Dinkins, Hosanna Community Baptist Church, Miami
Reverend Clifford H. McKinney, Sr., Hurst Chapel AME Church, Miami
Minister David N. Larmond, Kelly Chapel United Methodist Church, Miami
Pastor Debra Toomer, New Birth Baptist Church, Miami
Pastor Denrick E. Rolle, the Historic Saint Agnes Episcopal Church, Miami
Pastor Donnie Edwards, St. Philip Neri, Miami
Pastor Dr. D.A. Edwards, Word of Truth, Miami
Faith Based Chair, Reverend George Ellis, Department of Juvenile Justice, Miami
Pastor Gregory Thompson, New Harvest Missionary Baptist Church, Miami
Reverend Harold E. "Hunter" Thompson, Miami Beach Community Church, Miami
Pastor Jason Rogers, the Fountain of New Life, Miami
Pastor Jaymes Mooney, New Bethel PB Church, Miami
Pastor Jeffrey L. Mack, Second Canaan MBC, Miami
Reverend Joanem Floreal, Shalom Community Church, Miami
Pastor Joe C. Johnson, Ebenezer M.B. Church, Miami
Bishop John Taylor, New Beginning Embassy of Praise, Miami
Pastor Josephus Eggelletion, Jr., First Baptist Church Piney Grove, Miami
Pastor Kay Dawson, Cathedral of Praise, Miami
Pastor Keith Butler, Logos Baptist Church, Miami
Pastor Larrie M. Lovett, II, Antioch MB Church of Brownsville, Miami
Pastor Marvin Charles, Jr., Trinity AME Church of Miami, Miami
Reverend Purnell A. Moody, Kelly Chapel United Methodist Church, Miami
Pastor Quintin C. Pinkston, First Thessalonians MBC, Miami
Pastor Richard P. Dunn, II, Faith Community Baptist Church, Miami
Pastor Richardson Dwayne, Greater Love Full Gospel Baptist Church, Miami
Pastor Willie L. Williams, Greater Mercy Missionary Baptist Church, Miami
Bishop Allen Wiggins, Hope Church, Orlando
Presiding Elder James O. Williams, Sr., the Orlando District of the AME Church, Orlando
Pastor Frank Thompson, Orlando Worship Center, Orlando

Pastor Justin Felton, the Sanctuary Church, Orlando
Pastor Larry Mills, Mount Sinai, Orlando
Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Greater Refuge Memorial Church, Orlando
Pastor Reginald Johnson, Historic New Bethel AME, Orlando
Pastor Phillip Russ, IV, Hurst Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Pensacola
Dr. Homer Brown, Paradise Church, Rockledge
Pastor Joel Brook, Sanford Church of Jesus Christ, Sanford
Pastor Kelvin Price, Payne Chapel AME, Sarasota
Pastor Celo Jenkins, Refuge Sorrento, Sorrento
Reverend Dr. Manuel L. Sykes, Bethel Community Baptist Church, St. Petersburg
President Jeffrey Copeland, Florida's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, St. Petersburg
Pastor Robert Ward, Mt. Moriah Baptist, St. Petersburg
Reverend Ronald E. Williams, Sr., Saint Luke AME Church, St. Petersburg
Pastor Diane B. Townsend, Tallavana Community Church, Tallahassee
Reverend Don W. Tolliver, Bethel MB Church, Tallahassee
Senior Pastor Dr. James R. Gibbs, Jr., African Methodist Episcopal Church, Tallahassee
Reverend Ernest Ferrell, St. Mary Primitive Baptist Church, Tallahassee
Pastor Ersel Reed, Sanctuary of Praise, Tallahassee
Pastor Jerome Ford, Philadelphia P.B. Church, Tallahassee
Pastor Lamar Simmons, Love and Faith Community Church, Tallahassee
Pastor Lewis Anderson, Mt. Pleasant P.B. Church, Tallahassee
Minister Ola S.L. Sheffield, St. John MB Church, Tallahassee
Pastor Randolph Ferguson, Sr., New Birth Tabernacle of Praise, Tallahassee
Pastor Shay Alexander, Judah Christian Center, Tallahassee
Bishop Sylvester Robinson, Greater Mount Pleasant MB Church, Tallahassee
Pastor Alfred Johnson, Church of Preparation, Tampa
Pastor Craig Holloway, Triumphant Church Fellowship, Tampa
Pastor Dwayne Mickens, Bethel Outreach Ministers, Tampa
Senior Pastor Gregory Gay, Mt. Olive AME Church, Tampa
Pastor Karen J. Sims, New St. Paul AME Church, Tampa
Pastor Terrance Shaw, Mt. Calvary Deliverance Church, Tampa

Reverend Frank McDonald, Mt. Pleasant MB Church, Wakulla Station

Also signed by,

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