

*Robin*  
*2/27/04*

**TEXT OF THE PROPOSED 2004 AMENDMENT**  
to the  
**COLORADO CONSTITUTION**

**"GI-Bill for Kids"**



*Be it enacted by the people of the State of Colorado:*

Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Colorado is hereby amended by the addition of the following new section:

Sec. 17. The provisions of Sections 25 and 34 of Article V, Sections 7 and 15 of Article IX, and Section 2 of Article XI of this Constitution notwithstanding, the General Assembly shall provide by law that, to be effective with the 2006-2007 school year, all state monies appropriated for general support of pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary and secondary education, including those for the equalization of property taxes, shall be apportioned among all Colorado students between the ages of four and twenty-one, and that the value of each individual share of such apportionment, in the form of a **voucher**, shall be under the control of the parent or guardian of each student for which a voucher is requested; students who are emancipated minors shall control their own vouchers. The value of said voucher shall be no less than 95% of the average statewide per-pupil revenue or its equivalent in any state education funding formula. To increase the value of the voucher the General Assembly may provide by law for the similar apportionment of local property taxes, and other local taxes, raised for educational purposes. The General Assembly may also provide by law for the similar apportionment, in the form of a voucher, of funds appropriated for categorical services such as transportation and special education. The express object of such apportionments is to afford said parent or guardian or emancipated minor a **choice** of appropriate pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary and secondary educational services from among the various resources available in Colorado, including, but not limited to, the parent's choice of government (public) schools, or non-government schools (which may accept the voucher and redeem its value from the state), or home schools (which may exchange the value of the voucher for educational services and materials in-kind), as provided by law. School districts may be remunerated at the rate of 2% of the value of each voucher for administrative services in connection with the disbursement of vouchers. No voucher shall be redeemable nor exchangeable for services from any institution operated, controlled or funded by an organization formed for political purposes as defined in law, nor from any organization teaching or supporting terrorism as defined by law, nor from any institution which discriminates in contravention of state or federal law. Nothing in this section shall create in any state agency any authority not existing prior to January 1, 2002, over the educational programs of non-government educational resources, except for provisions in law setting minimum student achievement or proficiency standards, which may be no more stringent for non-government educational resources than for government (public) schools. Section 17 of Article 9 of this Constitution is repealed.

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