

For immediate release

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ABINGTON COUPLE FILES SUIT TO FORCE THE BREAKUP OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL MONOPOLY, AWARD EVERY CHILD AN \$11,500 SCHOLARSHIP, AND ELIMINATE THE SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX

HARRISBURG, PA – On Tuesday a lawsuit was filed in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania (docket number 441 M.D. 2026) to force the privatization of Pennsylvania’s failing public school system which, if successful, would also allow for the complete elimination of the onerous school property tax without raising any other tax. Petitioners on the suit include Ken Krawchuk of Abington and his wife Roberta.

“There’s no getting around it,” Krawchuk insisted. “With precious few exceptions, our public schools suck. Just look at the facts: Standardized testing shows that more than half our children cannot read at grade level, and almost two-thirds can’t do math. Adding insult to scholastic injury, the average cost of a public school education is more than double the cost of a typical, non-elite private education, and We The People are forced to pay for that grossly-inferior school system with outrageous property taxes. If there were a report card on our government schools, it could only be F, F, F, and F.

“Worse yet—as if there can be anything worse than *that*—Article 3 Section 14 of our Pennsylvania Constitution mandates that the state provide for ‘a thorough and efficient system of public education.’ But when most kids can’t read or do math at grade level, that’s hardly “thorough.” When the cost of a government education is more than twice that of a private one, that’s hardly “efficient.” And when the trends continue to worsen year after year after year, obviously something had to be done about it. And today, thankfully, something was.”

Ken Krawchuk has extensive experience in the educational field, having spent over twenty years at Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey (the S.A.T. people) overseeing their global network of thousands of testing centers, corporate financials, and working on the NAEP test, known as “the Nation’s Report Card.” He and his wife Roberta currently reside in Abington Township in southeastern Pennsylvania. They pay school property taxes in Abington and have three school-age grandchildren.

In a 34-page filing, Krawchuk and his wife are demanding numerous injunctions against Governor Shapiro and the General Assembly leadership, including:

- Awarding each and every child in Pennsylvania an Education Savings Account of \$11,500 per child, usable at any private, religious, Montessori, or technical school, or for homeschooling;
- Selling all public school properties to private educators;
- Establishing a citizen-run curriculum and testing program;
- Demanding comprehensive legislation from the Governor and General Assembly within 180 days, with court-ordered status reports every 30 days;

“This is not the first lawsuit to challenge the constitutionality of the public schools,” Krawchuk pointed out. “In 2023 the Commonwealth Court ruled the public school funding system to be unconstitutional, and ordered that seven sweeping deficiencies be corrected to bring the schools into compliance. But here it is, over three years later, and the Governor and Legislature have done virtually nothing to correct that injustice, three more years of kids who can’t read or do math, three years of legislators collecting a salary for doing essentially nothing to help fix our schools. It’s that nonchalant and uncaring attitude that forced Roberta and me to take legal action. And if there were any way we could succeed in having their pay withheld until they do comply, we’d do that in a heartbeat.

“The beauty of this lawsuit is in the tax implications,” Krawchuk continued. “The state and federal governments currently provide funding of about \$11,000 per child to the school districts. But those funds should be redirected instead directly to each student as an Education Savings Account which can be used as scholarship money for any private school of the parent’s choice. Since existing funding is only being redirected into the scholarships, no tax increase is necessary. Better yet, once the funding is redirected away from the school districts and they are no longer funded, they can be shut down. And once that happens, those onerous property taxes they love to levy can simply vanish. Seniors would no longer be foreclosed out of their homes. First time home buyers would be better able to afford one. And those of us caught in the middle would no longer be forced to pay an eternal mortgage on our property to finance a patently inferior product.

“Of course there will be so-called experts who’ll say that public schools are necessary and that privatization won’t work. But what’s currently not working is the public school system itself. How can anyone defend the abysmal results we see today? Those who might would have zero credibility, and make themselves complicit in harming our children.”

With the filing of the lawsuit, the Governor and General Assembly leadership now have thirty days to respond, after which the wheels of justice will slowly grind to an eventual conclusion. More information about the initiative and a copy of the filed suit can be found on the web at <http://KenKrawchuk.com/4F>.

Media Contact

Ken Krawchuk
info@KenKrawchuk.com
(775) 583-7525 (work)

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