

School vouchers

Re: "Vouching for Milton Friedman," Nov. 22 Cal Thomas column.

There is still work to be done by progressives who must not bask too long in post-election afterglow. The Republican word machine is alive and spitting out fantasies about the likes of vouchers.

Vouchers have long been code for tax relief for private school parents. Thomas thoroughly confuses the issue by rewording it "school choice." A limited number of poor parents in pilot programs benefited from leaving poor public schools. The larger issue confronting our society, however, is what to do about the majority of poor, socially isolated children of color who are systematically cut off from access to the larger society.

Progressives have a better idea. We do not need to "reform" our public schools, we need to fund them equally. We need to establish transfer programs so that children of color are brought into the larger culture and white children are taught important life lessons about getting along with all kinds of people.

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