

(Continued)

and parochial schools by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1985 Aguilar v. Felton decision.

Riley expressed deep concern that private school vouchers would destroy public schools and also fundamentally change the nature of private schools by making them accountable to the public.

Noting that the average income for high school graduates has been declining over the past 20 years, Riley said, "Good paying jobs require more of an education, and that education has to start earlier and be more demanding." He cited apprenticeships, career academics and tech preps as examples of ways to better prepare students for higher-wage jobs.

Riley called on colleges and universities to "hold the line" on tuition and urged the Congress to maintain funding for student loans and grants. He renewed his call to expand the Direct Student Loan program and voiced support for President Clinton's merit scholarship, work study and tuition tax deduction proposals.

"Our task is not to retreat to our own separate racial, ethnic, cultural or political interest group, but rather to do the hard work of learning to come together for the good of all our children," he said.

"We know how to create good schools. Now, is the time to get the job done — to roll-up our sleeves — to recapture that pioneer spirit of working together to make America's schools bastions of hope, creativity and learning."



"Beaufort just found out that if SB 1115 becomes law, his parents can revoke his driver's license."