

DO SOME WANT TO DESTROY PUBLIC EDUCATION ?

I guess that I am getting old, crotchety and suspicious. Reading about all of the changes that are being proposed in South Carolina education and then seeing a proposed federal education budget that cuts billions from education makes me wonder. Are we really concerned about our children?

This is not just a discussion about South Carolina children, but all of the children in public schools, now and in the future, in our country. The billionaire class seems to have no interest in perpetuating public education. Their dollars go to lobby for private education, charter schools, vouchers, and limited funding for public schools.

As the cost of almost everything else rises, we hear more talk about efficiency in running our schools, while CEOs earn millions of dollars in compensation. We have hedge fund managers invest in private companies that run charter schools. We see candidates for office propose tax cuts that would affect public schools and remove needed funding

I wonder where these people got their ideas about democracy. How many times have we learned that public education is the pillar of democracy? That's just not an idle thought. Our founding parents knew that an educated population would never accede to undemocratic principles. The greatest bulwark against totalitarianism is education.

Public schools have produced the overwhelming number of Nobel Prize winners. You might also want to take a look at the titans of industry and where they went to school. From John D. Rockefeller to Steve Jobs and Jeff Bezos, they went to public schools. Does that strike you as strange?

The “broken” system of education is still producing masterful graduates. They will be the leaders of the future. When friends, neighbors or family begin to down public education, ask them where they went to school and have they led a successful life? I will bet that the overwhelming number of them went to public schools.