

**For immediate release Friday, October 6, 2017**

**FILMMAKERS RESPOND TO ATTACK ON “BACKPACK FULL OF CASH”  
DOCUMENTARY NARRATED BY MATT DAMON**

**BACKPACK explores the real cost of privatizing  
America's public schools.**

**Interviews available.**

Just yesterday, [The Hollywood Reporter](#) published an interview with [Jeanne Allen](#), founder of the Center for Education Reform who formerly worked for the Reagan administration and the Heritage Foundation, and who we interviewed for our film. Although she has yet to see *Backpack Full of Cash*, Allen attacks it, Matt Damon, and us, personally. Her attack was also covered today in [The Boston Globe](#).

The *Backpack* filmmakers, Director & Producer Sarah Mondale and Producer & Co-Editor Vera Aronow stand by their reporting and believe Ms. Allen’s interview quotes are used in their proper context in *Backpack*. This interview was conducted with her explicit legal consent and knowledge that it could be used in a documentary film about education reform, which is precisely what has happened. Her reference to a “backpack” of school funding following each child, is common in education policy discussions.

We regret that Ms. Allen doesn’t like her portrayal in a film that she hasn’t seen, but we also appreciate that she’s kept the conversation going about the health of our public school system. Given the policy directives of the Trump administration and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, we feel strongly that these discussions should be taking place in every school, library and community center across the country.

We spent five years making the film to generate deeper discourse on the state of public education—especially the consequences of privatization on public schools and the most vulnerable students who rely on them—and hope that future media attention will focus more on the issues.

While the film is not yet in general distribution, we are showing it at film festivals and community screenings in the U.S. and across the globe. *Backpack* screenings are turning out to be a powerful tool for informing communities about what is happening in public education today. People who want to find out more about the film or how to host a screening, can go to [www.backpackfullofcash.com](http://www.backpackfullofcash.com).

**Contacts for BACKPACK FULL OF CASH:**

[press@backpackfullofcash.com](mailto:press@backpackfullofcash.com) or [info@backpackfullofcash.com](mailto:info@backpackfullofcash.com)

Official Website: [www.BackpackFullofCash.com](http://www.BackpackFullofCash.com)

[Photos and other Press Resources](#) are available.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/backpackfullofcash/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/backpackthefilm>

Instagram: @backpackthefilm