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Title: Resolution Opposing the Education Freedom Scholarship Act in Tennessee

WHEREAS, the Cleveland City Schools Board of Education is committed to providing quality education for all students within our district; and

WHEREAS, the Education Freedom Scholarship Act proposed in Tennessee seeks to divert public dollars away from public schools, thereby jeopardizing the financial stability of our public education system; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the importance of maintaining accountability in the allocation of public funds and believes that public dollars should be used exclusively for the enhancement and support of public education; and

WHEREAS, fiscal conservatism is a cornerstone of responsible governance, and the Board is committed to the prudent use of taxpayer dollars to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of public education; and

WHEREAS, the Board is dedicated to supporting the diverse needs and learning styles of all students within our community, recognizing that public schools are uniquely positioned to serve a broad spectrum of students; and

WHEREAS, the Education Freedom Scholarship Act may undermine the ability of public schools to fulfill their mission of providing a comprehensive and equitable education to all students, including those with diverse learning needs and backgrounds; and



WHEREAS, the Board believes that public education is a vital component of a democratic society and a key driver of social and economic progress; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the importance of fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility for the success of all students within our public school system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Cleveland City Schools Board of Education opposes the Education Freedom Scholarship Act in Tennessee and urges legislators to consider the following principles in their decision-making:

- Public dollars should remain with public schools to ensure the continued strength and stability of the public education system.
- Accountability measures are essential to guarantee that taxpayer dollars are used effectively and transparently to benefit all students.
- Fiscal conservatism should guide educational policies to promote responsible stewardship of public funds.
- Supporting all students, regardless of background or learning style, is a fundamental principle that public schools are uniquely positioned to uphold.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Tennessee School Board Association, the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents, Senator Adam Lowe and Representative Kevin Raper urging them to consider the potential impact of the Education Freedom Scholarship Act on public education in Tennessee and to vote and advocate against its passage.

Adopted this 8th day of January, 2024 by the Cleveland City Schools Board of Education.