

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING GOVERNOR LEE'S EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT**

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, in Article XI, Section 12, states that the Tennessee legislature "shall provide for the maintenance, support, and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools," and

WHEREAS, the fulfillment of this constitutional guarantee is heavily reliant upon adequate state funding, which is vital for equipping schools with the necessary resources to serve the various needs of Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, the Loudon County Board of Education is charged with governing the school district so that all students, regardless of background, needs, or ability, receive the best possible educational opportunities in order to graduate prepared to enter a postsecondary institution or the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Loudon County School system is an educational community that serves a student population of 5,000 students, with 71% of those coming from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the Loudon County School system offers an array of specialized programs including special education services, career and technical education training aligned with local workforce needs which are invaluable for meeting both individual student needs and Tennessee Constitution's requirement of a free and public education; and

WHEREAS, the Loudon County School system is a cornerstone of the local community, not only providing education services to all students regardless of background, need, or ability, but also employing 575 staff members;

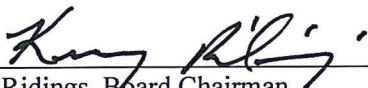
WHEREAS, the Loudon County School system is committed to maintaining local control over its schools, ensuring that they are reflective of the community's needs and values; and


WHEREAS, Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) threaten the district's ability to maintain the quality of its educational offerings as ESAs would divert state funds to private actors and disrupt local control of education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Loudon County Board of Education hereby expresses its opposition to the Governor's "Education Freedom Act" as well as any other voucher of Education Savings Account legislation due to the detrimental impacts these programs will have on our students, schools, and community, and

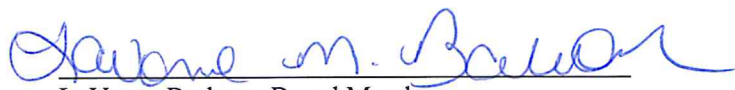
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Loudon County Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly to consider the effects that Education Savings Accounts will have on local school districts and to instead seek out ways to support and strengthen public schools throughout the state.

THIS RESOLUTION is adopted as of this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

  
Kenny Ridings, Board Chairman

  
Michal Garren, Director of Schools

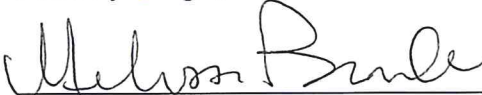
  
Scott Newman, Board Member

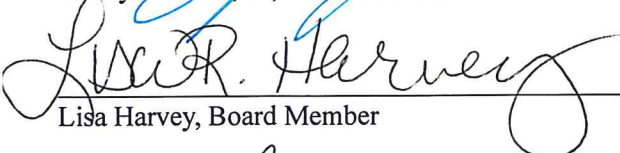
  
LaVonne Barbour, Board Member

  
Philip Moffett, Board Member

  
Kimberly Bridges, Board Member

  
Bobby Johnson, Jr., Board Member

  
Melissa Browder, Board Member

  
Lisa Harvey, Board Member

  
Zack Cusick, Board Member

  
Kenneth Presley, Board Member