

JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE AVON COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION (ACSC) AND THE AVON FEDERATION OF TEACHERS (AFT) OPPOSING AND CONDEMNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AND VOUCHER EXPANSION

WHEREAS, the Indiana General Assembly during its 2021 legislative session is considering legislation, including House Bill 1005, Senate Bill 412, and Senate Bill 413 that establish Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and expand vouchers.

WHEREAS, the Indiana General Assembly during the 2021 legislative session is considering the establishment of education savings accounts (ESAs) that funnel state funding to parents who withdraw their children from public schools.

WHEREAS, education savings accounts give parents the equivalent of a taxpayer-funded debit card to pay for private school tuition, unregulated home schools, and educational services such as tutoring.

WHEREAS, public funds should be invested in public schools, which serve all children.

WHEREAS, public schools are subject to fiscal transparency, public oversight, and taxpayer accountability. Non-public schools are not. All schools that receive public funds should be held to the same set of standards.


WHEREAS, education savings accounts and voucher expansion would be funded out of the K-12 tuition support appropriation at the expense of public schools and would consume a significant portion of Governor Holcomb's recommended tuition support increases for Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023, respectively.

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the Indiana General Assembly should not enact Education Savings Accounts, or expand vouchers, and should continue to promote and fully invest in Indiana's public schools, more specifically,

- To further the public good, public funds should be invested in improving the schools designed to serve all children and to aid in improving Indiana public school teachers' salaries as recommended by the Governor's Teacher Compensation Commission in its report of December 14, 2020.
- Indiana already has school choice in the form of open enrollment, charter schools, enrollment in virtual online schools, and the Choice Scholarship program.
- Public schools are required to operate in an open, transparent way with all expenditure and decision-making. Nonpublic schools are not held to that same public standard.
- Legislators should reduce the over-regulation of state and federal bureaucracy that hinders the ability of local schools to innovate and be responsive to parent and community needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, the Avon Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees and the Avon Federation of Teachers opposes and condemns the establishment of education savings accounts and voucher expansion as proposed by members of Indiana's General Assembly.

Passed and Adopted this 8th day of March, 2021.



President, Board of School Trustees



Member, Board of School Trustees



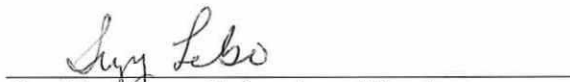
Vice President, Board of School Trustees



Member, Board of School Trustees



Secretary, Board of School Trustees



President, Avon Federation of Teachers