



Resolution Opposing the Establishment of Education Scholarship Accounts and the Expansion of the Indiana School Choice Scholarship Program

WHEREAS, the Indiana State Constitution requires that Indiana provide a "uniform system of Common Schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge, and equally open to all".

WHEREAS, the Indiana General Assembly during the 2021 legislative session is considering legislation (HB1005 and SB412) that would establish education savings accounts (ESAs) that incentivize families to withdraw children from public schools, as well as a significant expansion of the Indiana school choice scholarship program.

WHEREAS, education savings accounts take money from public schools for individuals to spend on education products and services, including textbooks and school uniforms, yet Indiana does not provide full funding for textbooks for public school students.

WHEREAS, the proposed bills will allow the use of up to \$26,000 of unspent, tax deductible education savings account funds to pay for college tuition for each child.

WHEREAS, the expansion of the Indiana school choice scholarship program would direct additional resources to non-public schools that are not held accountable to taxpayers for the use of public funds.

WHEREAS, Indiana has exempted non-public schools from fiscal transparency, public oversight, and taxpayer accountability by codifying the following language in IC 20-51-4: "the department or any other state agency may not in any way regulate the educational program of a nonpublic eligible school that accepts a choice scholarship" and "a nonpublic eligible school shall be given the freedom to provide for the educational needs of students without governmental control".

WHEREAS, a majority of beneficiaries of education savings accounts and school choice scholarships will be relatively affluent while the Indiana General Assembly proposed a budget (HB1001) that limits funding for public schools that serve students from poverty.

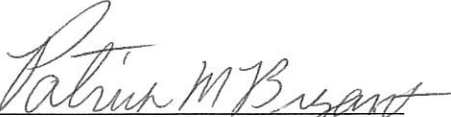
WHEREAS, this legislation would further erode the financial support provided to Indiana's public schools, which serve over 90% of Indiana's students, and divert resources away from improving Indiana public school teachers' salaries as recommended by the Governor's Teacher Compensation Commission report, released on December 14, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, the School Board of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation opposes and condemns the establishment of education scholarship accounts and the expansion of the Indiana choice scholarship program as proposed by members of Indiana's General Assembly in House Bill 1005 and Senate Bill 412.

Approved this 1st day of March, 2021.



BCSC Board President



BCSC Board Secretary