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**JOINT RESOLUTION BETWEEN
THE HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION AND
THE HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN SCHOOLS
IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1005 AND SB 413**

WHEREAS, the Indiana General Assembly during its 2021 legislative session is considering HB 1005 and SB 413.

WHEREAS, HB 1005 and SB 413 establish Education Savings (or Scholarship) Accounts (ESAs) and dramatically increase funding for school choice scholarships; and,

WHEREAS, there is no urgency to pass these measures during a pandemic that is already imposing severe financial constraints on public schools; and,

WHEREAS, parents in Indiana have an array of state-funded options for schooling, including high quality public schools, choice scholarships, tax deductions for private school and home school education expenses, charter schools, innovation schools, and virtual schools; and,


WHEREAS, continued expansion of vouchers has negatively affected public school students and their programs in Indiana; and,

WHEREAS, voucher funding impairs Indiana's constitutional obligation to fund a uniform system of schools wherein tuition shall be without charge; and,

WHEREAS, the Parties believe that this type of legislation does not give real choice to families, as private and religious schools can discriminate in whom they educate; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation would direct resources to nonpublic schools that are not accountable to taxpayers for the expenditures they make with public funds, not audited by the State Board of Accounts, do not publish annual financial or performance reports, are largely exempt from an extraordinary array of federal and state mandates, regulations and reporting requirements that are imposed on public schools, do not receive federal accountability ratings, and are not even required to employ licensed teachers.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties strongly oppose HB 1005 and SB 413 and urge legislators to oppose these bills, and any other legislation that directs funding away from Indiana public schools.

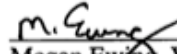
HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Janet Chandler, President

HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN
SCHOOLS


Janet Pritchett, President


Abby Taylor, Executive Vice President

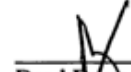

Leslie Brown, VP Communications


Megan Ewing, VP Membership



Carolyn Porzuczek, VP Community Engagement

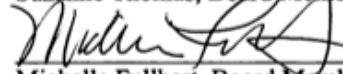

Greg Hartman, Treasurer


Eric Green, Secretary

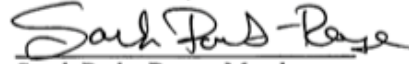

Brad Boyer, Vice President


Julie Chambers, Secretary


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Sarah Donsbach, Member


Sarah Parks-Reese, Member