

**Resolution 789 Opposing and Condemning the
Establishment of Education Savings Accounts**

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 would be funded out of the K-12 tuition support appropriation at the expense of public schools and would consume much of Governor Holcomb's recommended tuition support increase of two (2) and one (1) percent for Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023, respectively.

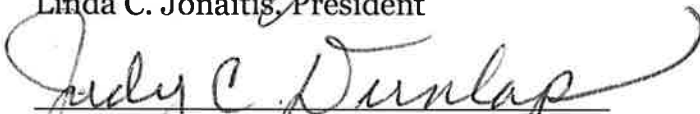
WHEREAS, House Bill 1005 seeks to create an education savings account scheme to be called the "Indiana education scholarship account program".

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 412 seeks to create an education savings account scheme to be known as the "Indiana personalized education grant program".

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, the School Board of Trustees of the Merrillville Community School Corporation opposes and condemns the establishment of education savings accounts as proposed by members of Indiana's General Assembly in House Bill 1005 and Senate Bill 412.

Approved this 16th day of February, 2021.


Linda C. Jonaitis, President


Judy C. Dunlap, Vice-President


Mark S. Lucas, Secretary


James Donohue, Member

Although I was unable to attend the School Board Meeting due to work obligations, I fully support this resolution.

DeLena Thomas, Member