

Resolution Opposing the Establishment of Education Savings Accounts

WHEREAS, the Indiana General Assembly during its 2021 legislative session is considering HB 1005 and other bills that establish Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and/or expand vouchers.

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, enrollment in virtual online schools, and the Choice Scholarship program.*
- *Public schools are overseen by locally elected citizens and are required to operate in an open, transparent way with all expenditures and decision-making. Nonpublic schools are not held to that 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.*

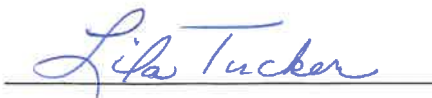
WHEREAS, the cost of the ESAs is covered exclusively by our state's school tuition support fund further providing fewer public dollars to fund our public schools and increase teacher's salaries. The cost of HB 1005 would result in public schools receiving less than one-third (1/3) of Governor Holcomb's increase in funding for public schools for Fiscal Year 2022 and no additional dollars (\$0.00) in Fiscal Year 2023 if Governor Holcomb's recommended tuition support increases of two (2) and one (1) percent for these fiscal years respectively is funded.

WHEREAS, the Board believes that public schools provide a strong educational environment for Indiana's children and education savings accounts, if enacted, would put this environment at risk by directing resources away from those schools to nonpublic schools that are not subject to the same rigorous scrutiny for their use of taxpayer resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved the school board of the Paoli Community School School Corporation, made up of locally elected and accountable board members representing our community opposes the passage and signing of HB1005, SB 412, and SB 413 or any other bill expanding vouchers and/or creating Education Savings Account into law.

Approved this 8th day of February, 2021.

Board President



Board Secretary

