

**JOINT RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
AND THE
MSD WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL CORPORATION
IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1005, SB 412, SB 413**

WHEREAS, the Indiana General Assembly during its 2021 legislative session is considering HB 1005, SB 412, and SB 413, bills which if adopted would establish Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), dramatically increase funding for school choice scholarships, and mandate that public schools must share operating revenue from property taxes with charter schools; and

WHEREAS public schools and public school educators serve more than 90% of Hoosier children and their families, and public school educators have as their mission and responsibility educating ALL children, regardless of race, ethnicity, and socio-economic status, including children with special needs and children who are English language learners, which mission and responsibility will of course continue to require adequate funding rather than funding which at best does nothing more than allow public schools to attempt to keep up with inflation; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Township Education Association and the MSD Washington Township School Board believe that legislation such as HB 1005, SB 412 and SB 413, were the same to be passed by the Indiana General Assembly, would divert much needed resources from Indiana's public schools, the likely and unfortunate result being that Indiana, despite the right to an education being explicitly protected by our State Constitution, will continue to rank 41st in the Nation in investment in public schools and last in the Midwest in teacher salaries, this occurring during the pandemic and at a time when there is a significant teacher shortage which recent teacher polls in Indiana suggest could worsen; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Township Education Association and the MSD Washington Township School Board believe that this type of legislation does not give choice to families but to nonpublic schools, meaning private and religious schools, as nonpublic schools can choose who they educate and public funds should only be used for education that is open to and inclusive of all Indiana students; and

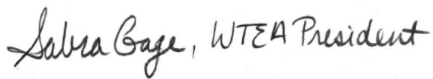
WHEREAS, the Washington Township Education Association and the MSD Washington Township School Board believe that public schools provide a strong educational environment for Indiana's children while this proposed legislation, if enacted, would direct resources away from public schools to nonpublic schools which are not accountable to taxpayers for the expenditures they make with public funds, are 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, whose ability to meet educational standards remains unproven, and which are not even required to employ licensed teachers; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the foregoing, there is currently no urgency to pass the above-referenced bills during a pandemic which is already imposing severe financial constraints on our public schools, given the array of state-funded options which presently exist in Indiana including high-quality public

schools, choice scholarships, SGO tax credits, a tax deduction for private school and homeschool education expenses, charter schools, innovation schools and virtual schools; and

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Washington Township Education Association and the MSD Washington Township School Board, state that we unequivocally oppose HB1005, SB 412 and SB 413, and we urge Legislators to vote NO to HB1005, SB 412, SB 413 and any other legislation that directs funding away from Indiana public schools which would make it difficult if not impossible for our public schools to fulfill their critical mission of educating all children.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



Sabra Gage, President

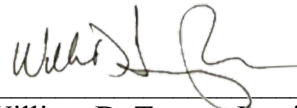


Laura VanderHaeghen, Vice President

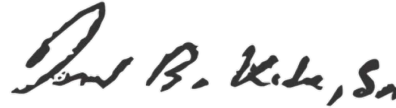


Tom Gayda, Treasurer

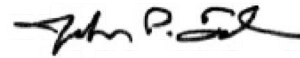
MSD WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
SCHOOL BOARD



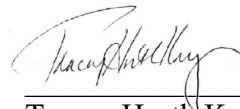
William D. Turner, President



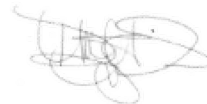
Donald B. Kite, Sr., Vice-President



John P. Fencl, Secretary



Tracey Horth Krueger, Member



Deirdre George Davis, Member