



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Warren County Board of Education Passes Resolution Opposing Governor's Proposed Education Freedom Act

McMinnville, Tenn., January 29, 2025 - Unanimous opposition was the response to Governor Bill Lee's proposed "Education Freedom Act" in Monday night's regularly scheduled meeting of the Warren County Board of Education. The board adopted a resolution opposing the Education Freedom Act and Education Savings Accounts, more commonly referred to as school vouchers, citing collective concerns and potential negative impacts the legislation would have on public education funding, student resources, and local school districts.

The resolution, passed by all members in attendance, reaffirms the board's commitment to supporting the district's public schools and providing equitable, high-quality education for all students in Warren County. The board expressed concerns that the proposed legislation, which includes the establishment of an education savings account program, could divert critical funding away from public schools to private education providers, impacting the services available to local families.

"One student from each school or let's say ten students, that's \$70,000 out of our budget. That \$70,000 is a teacher's job when it comes to our budget," said Warren County Board of Education Chairman Chris Cope.

Dr. Grant Swallows, Director of Schools, voiced his support for the resolution and stressed the importance of protecting resources that directly impact student achievement and opportunities.

"We want to give kids every opportunity to be successful; they can be successful in public school," he said. "Public schools are not the enemy. We have heroes walking down the hall everyday to educate every child, giving them somebody to believe in. They are the ones doing the hard work and to be made into a villain is flat wrong."

The resolution was sent to the Tennessee General Assembly directly through the offices of Sen. Janice Bowling and Rep. Paul Sherrell to formally express Warren County Schools' position on the proposed legislation.

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