

## RESOLUTION NO. 2013-23

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING LEGISLATION TO CREATE A SCHOOL VOUCHER PROGRAM IN TENNESSEE.**

**WHEREAS**, vouchers divert public taxpayer dollars from local public schools and use such funds to pay the tuition of public school students to attend private and religious schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Bill Haslam appointed a special task force in 2011 to explore the use of “opportunity scholarships”, commonly referred to as school vouchers; and

**WHEREAS**, the panel met for approximately one year but was unable to reach a consensus regarding how such a program should be structured in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a lack of empirical data supporting the assertion that school vouchers improve the performance of public schools through competition; and

**WHEREAS**, vouchers would essentially operate as an unfunded mandate for local public school systems since the removal of a few students from a school would likely not reduce the number of required teachers and would not reduce the capital costs associated with the school, yet the public school system would lose funding to cover these costs; and

**WHEREAS**, many private schools cannot or do not offer special education services which will remain a significant cost to the public schools which all provide such services; and

**WHEREAS**, the program would put additional pressure on the local property tax to restore adequate funding for our public schools to make up for funds that are diverted into vouchers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Weakley County wishes to make its position regarding school vouchers known to the public and to the Tennessee General Assembly.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the county legislative body of Weakley County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 18th of March 2013 in Dresden, Tennessee that:

**SECTION 1.** That the Board of Commissioners of Weakley County hereby goes on record as opposing legislation that would create a school voucher program in Tennessee without adequate state funds being appropriated to local school districts to cover the additional costs.

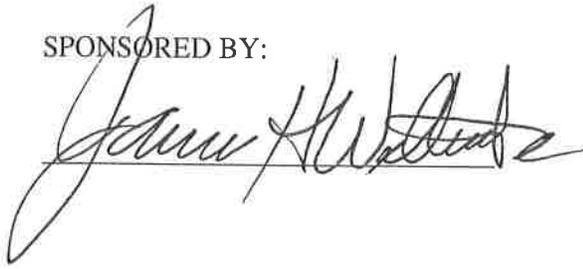
**SECTION 2.** The County Clerk of Weakley County is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to Governor Bill Haslam, to State Senator John Stephens, and to State Representative Andy Holt.

**SECTION 3.** That all resolutions of the Board of County Commissioners of Weakley County, Tennessee, which are in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed.

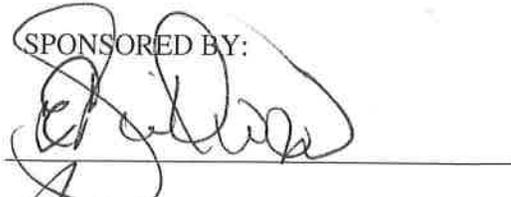
**SECTION 4.** That this resolution take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it. This resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

**Pursuant To The Rules Of The Commission, This Resolution Is Sponsored By The Following Members Of The Weakley County Board Of County Commissioners:**

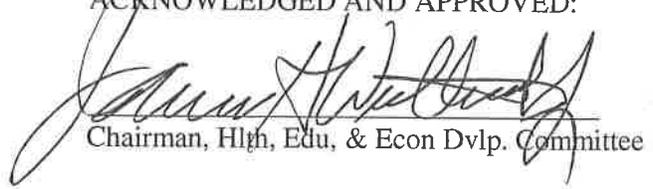
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ACKNOWLEDGED AND APPROVED:

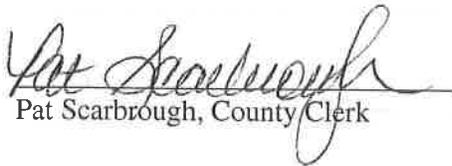
  
Chairman, Hlgh, Edu, & Econ Dvlp. Committee

Motion made by Commissioner Owen that the foregoing resolution be adopted:

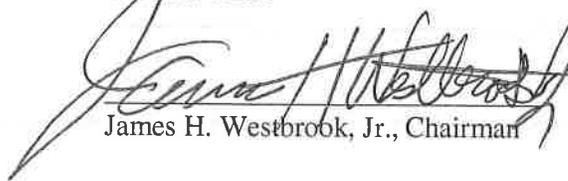
Motion seconded by Commissioner Bell.

Upon being put to a roll call vote, Motion carried by a vote of 13 Yeas, 4 Nays,  
0 Passed and 1 Absent.

ATTESTED:

  
Pat Scarbrough, County Clerk

APPROVED:

  
James H. Westbrook, Jr., Chairman

This the 18th Day of March 2013.

APPROVED:

  
Houston W. Patrick, County Mayor

VETOED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Houston W. Patrick, County Mayor

DATE: 03-20-13

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_