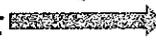


**Resolution No. 2017-09**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING WEAKLEY COUNTY, TN TO PARTICIPATE IN  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)  
RURAL IMPACT COUNTY CHALLENGE**

**RURAL IMPACT  
COUNTY CHALLENGE **

**WHEREAS**, small towns and rural communities are home to millions of Americans and are a vibrant part of our nation's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, approximately 1.4 million children in rural areas were poor and over 700,000 children lived in rural families with cash incomes that fell below half of the poverty line; and

**WHEREAS**, high rates of poverty have persisted for generations, including over 300 rural counties with poverty rates of over 20 percent in every Census since 1980; and

**WHEREAS**, investing in poor children and their families not only reduces poverty in the near term, but also improves children's education, health, and earnings outcomes later in life; and

**WHEREAS**, rural and tribal communities face distinct challenges, including limited access to critical services, fewer job prospects, and in some places, relative lack of institutional capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, no matter where they live, all families aspire for the cornerstones of economic security: a well-paying job, child care, a college education, health care, a home, and retirement; and

**WHEREAS**, Weakley County and all counties recognize that a child's zip code should not determine her destiny, and that every child should have the opportunity to succeed; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of Weakley County through their work with the Weakley County Backpack Program and the Weakley County Reading Railroad have developed innovative strategies to increase access to essential health and human services through physical colocation and greater alignment of different programs; and

**WHEREAS**, through *The Rural Impact County Challenge*, the National Association of Counties and the White House Rural Council are encouraging public, private and nonprofit leaders to reduce the number of children living in poverty in rural areas;

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT I Jake Bynum, Weakley County Mayor** do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of children living in poverty, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in my state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in *The Rural Impact County Challenge*. We resolve to utilize the resources available through *The Rural Impact County Challenge* to:

- Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to reducing the number of children and families in rural areas living in poverty.
- Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that improves access, participation, and/or impact of evidence-based and other promising practices in one or more of the following areas: early childhood education, nutrition, workforce development, and health and human services.
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

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

SPONSORED BY:

Jam Bynum

SPONSORED BY:

Doel Vincent

ACKNOWLEDGED AND APPROVED:

Carmel Chandler  
Chairperson, Health, Education, and Economic Development

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

Motion seconded by Commissioner Jones.

Upon being put to a voice vote, motion carried by a vote of 18 Yeas  
0 Nays, 0 Passed and 0 Absent.

ATTESTED:

Kim Hughey  
Kim Hughey, County Clerk

APPROVED:

Jake Bynum  
Jake Bynum, Chairman, County Mayor