

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-01-015**

**SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONERS BRAD BOWERS, RON FRENCH,  
DAWN REAGAN, ROBBIE BENNETT, EARL MCMAHAN, MIKE AKARD,  
AND DYRAN BLEDSOE**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BLOUNT COUNTY COMMISSION  
REAFFIRMING OPPOSITION TO DIVERTING PUBLIC DOLLARS AWAY FROM  
K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR PRIVATE USE**

**WHEREAS**, in January 2024, the Blount County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution No. 24-01-014, which opposed any initiatives that divert public dollars away from K-12 public schools for private use; and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, in Article XI, Section 12, mandates the General Assembly to provide for the maintenance, support, and eligibility standards of a public school system; and

**WHEREAS**, the school systems of Blount County, including those of Blount County Schools, Maryville City Schools, and Alcoa City Schools, should have adequate funding to provide an appropriate public education for all enrolled students, including those with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the introduction of HB0001/SB0001 in the upcoming session of the Tennessee General Assembly seeks to establish a statewide educational voucher plan, potentially undermining the financial stability of public education in Blount County; and

**WHEREAS**, the new bill does not provide any income limit on half of the initial proposed 20,000 scholarships, opening the door to public subsidy of private education by parents who can otherwise afford it themselves; and

**WHEREAS**, the new bill does not contain any provisions that would guarantee that any Blount County students, let alone a proportional number of Blount County students, would receive any benefit from the new proposal; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of the new proposal is estimated to add hundreds of millions of dollars of expense to the state budget, at a time when the state is faced with needs in public education and improved infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining transparency and accountability in the use of public funds for education is essential for public trust and the effectiveness of educational funding;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Blount County Board of Commissioners hereby reaffirms its opposition to diverting public dollars away from K-12 education to private uses and further expresses its opposition to HB0001/SB0001, and requests that the state legislative delegation of Blount County votes against HB0001/SB0001.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the members of the state legislative delegation of Blount County upon its passage.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS RESOLUTION TAKE EFFECT FROM  
AND AFTER PASSAGE, THE PUBLIC WELFARE REQUIRING IT.**

**CERTIFICATION OF ACTION**

**ATTEST**

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Commission Chairman

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County Clerk

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County Mayor

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Date

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Vetoed