

RESOLUTION NO. 748

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION OF THE CITY OF CLINTON TO THE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly in the 2017 legislative session will entertain legislation that would use public funds to pay tuition cost for students to attend private, religious and non-religious schools; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly and the Tennessee State Board of Education have adopted high standards of student and teacher performance in the public schools; and

WHEREAS, private schools are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools pertaining to academic performance or student access; and

WHEREAS, many private schools in Tennessee have not adopted similar standards, refusing to administer the same tests given to public school students, not providing special education services required of public schools or accepting all students regardless of ability, making it impossible to determine the academic value of funding private education; and

WHEREAS, the proposal to take resources from public schools comes at a time when the state's Basic Education Program is not adequately funded; and

WHEREAS, the motivation for taking funds from Tennessee public schools comes primarily from groups in California, Texas, and Washington D.C., that seek to establish and manage private schools on a profit basis; and

WHEREAS, large numbers of legislators have openly expressed their desire to expand the use of public funds to all students, regardless of their income, school or community; and

WHEREAS, once authorized, the pressure of interest groups to expand the transfer of public funds to private schools in all communities will be enormous; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to the vitality of the City of Clinton that we protect and sustain a system of public education that for decades has proven to be among our city's most valuable assets;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Clinton, Tennessee strongly opposes taking funds from public education in any Tennessee community without the concurrence of the local Board of Education, without statutory assurance that schools receiving the funds will comply with the same curriculum and testing standards required of public schools, and until the Basic Education Program is adequately funded by the Tennessee General Assembly.

Adopted this 23rd day of January, 2017.


Mayor Scott Burton


Regina Ridenour, City Recorder