

**RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
BACKPACK SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, AS PROPOSED IN  
HOUSE BILL 290 OF THE 134<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY (11-21-3)**

WHEREAS, the establishment of a statewide universal voucher program, as introduced in House Bill (H.B.) 290 (the "Backpack Bill"), would allow \$5,500 for students in Grades K-8 and \$7,500 for students in Grades 9-12 to be deposited into an education savings account to be used for private school tuition, tutoring, textbooks, and other allowable uses; and

WHEREAS, the Backpack Bill would repeal the EdChoice and Cleveland voucher programs, and provide \$5,500 to \$7,500 to all students, regardless of a family's income; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the Backpack Bill is being analyzed, but H.B. 290 will likely cost several billion dollars annually, depending on student participation rates; and

WHEREAS, in many cases, the vouchers are awarded to students who never attended a public school; and

WHEREAS, private and charter schools are not held to the same academic or financial standards as the public schools, as well as protections against religious and disability discrimination; and

WHEREAS, from 2005 to current date, the NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) scores show no difference among public, private, or charter schools; and

WHEREAS, many students who receive a voucher show a decrease in state test scores during the first three years following the transfer; and

WHEREAS, in many cases, the operators of the private/charter schools are driven by profit motives and not educational improvement; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the Backpack Bill on the future of the Fair School Funding Plan is unknown, but it would no doubt be detrimental to further phase-in of the Plan.

WHEREAS, the impact of the Backpack Bill on the future of Wapakoneta's funding is unknown and could require an unnecessary increase in the local funding share; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Wapakoneta City School District, that:

Section 1. The Board of Education hereby states its opposition to the enactment of H.B. 290. This opposition is necessary to ensure the full phase-in of the Fair School Funding Plan, which, when fully phased-in, will adequately and equitably fund Ohio public schools.

Section 2. The Board believes that the public school districts of the State of Ohio must together express their common opposition to this Bill and any similar legislation introduced in the future, and therefore, encourages other districts in Ohio to adopt a similar resolution of opposition.

Section 3. The Treasurer is authorized to deliver or cause to be delivered a certified copy of this Resolution to community leaders; to members of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate, including Representatives Bob Cupp and Matt Huffman; and to the Office of Governor Michael DeWine.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.