A Resolution Of The Hamilton County Republican Party

In Support Of Senator Bo Watson and Efforts to Restore Local Control and Integrity to Tennessee's Public School Enrollment Process

WHEREAS, public education in Tennessee is funded by taxpayers **to serve Tennessee families**, not to subsidize the education of individuals unlawfully present in the United States; and

WHEREAS, requiring documentation to enroll – such as **proof of age, residency, or lawful status** – is a reasonable and standard expectation of all American families, and is necessary to ensure **fairness and accountability** in our school systems; and

WHEREAS, opponents of SB 836 falsely claim that it targets children, when in reality it simply gives **local districts the choice to prioritize lawful residents** – without mandating enforcement or denying emergency services; and

WHEREAS, legal precedent such as *Plyler v Doe (1982)* is **not a license for open enrollment** regardless of status, and lawmakers have both the right and the responsibility to re-examine the long-term consequences of this outdated decision; and

WHEREAS, claims that these reforms will harm economic competitiveness or school climate ignore the **real strain on classrooms, budgets, and achievement** caused by unlimited, unverified enrollment; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's school funding formula (TISA) already ensures that districts are held harmless from enrollment declines, so concerns about funding shortfalls are misleading and do not justify surrendering local control; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bo Watson has shown **principled leadership** in advancing legislation that restores common sense and gives communities the tools they need to preserve the integrity of public education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Hamilton County Republican Party stands firmly with Senator Bo Watson** and supports SB 836 and all efforts to defend the rights of local parents, school districts, and taxpayers to make informed, lawful decisions about enrollment.

Adopted this 14th of April 2025
By the Hamilton County Republican Party
Chairman: Gail Greene
Secretary: Anne Lowery