

Repeal the School Voucher Program and Recommit the Funds to the Public School System

Cumberland County Democratic Party Resolution **Number 01-2014**

Whereas, in 2013, the North Carolina legislature created a school voucher program, diverting millions of taxpayer dollars from public schools to unaccountable private schools; and

Whereas, this voucher program will drain funding from under-funded public schools; and

Whereas, the North Carolina public school system is one of the most under-funded in the nation, ranking 48th in per pupil expenditures; and

Whereas, the voucher program would divert over \$11 million out of the public school system in 2014-15, and far more in subsequent years; and

Whereas, student achievement will not improve by creating a voucher program; and

Whereas, in the school systems that have had voucher programs in place the longest, Milwaukee and Cleveland, traditional public school students outperform voucher students in available proficiency measures; and

Whereas, private schools that participate in this voucher program would be unaccountable for public funds expended; and

Whereas, schools that participate in the voucher program are not obligated to admit or accommodate students with disabilities; are permitted to discriminate in the admission of students on the basis of race, gender, family income, and religion; are not required to employ teachers who are licensed by the NC State Board of Education or possess any specific credentials or degrees nor are they required to be evaluated or measured on performance in any manner; and voucher-eligible schools are not subject to any requirements regarding the curriculum nor student achievement; and

Whereas, the voucher proposal passed by the General Assembly patently violates Article IX, Section 6 of the North Carolina Constitution which provides, that public funds for education “shall be faithfully appropriated and used exclusively for establishing and maintaining a uniform system of free public schools”; and

Whereas, the Superior Court of Wake County has enjoined this program from moving into effect, finding it likely violates the North Carolina Constitution as set forth above; and

Whereas, the voucher legislation is not educational reform which would improve the public schools of North Carolina; rather, it is an abdication of the public schools of our state;

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Cumberland County Democratic Party hereby implores the North Carolina General Assembly to repeal the unconstitutional and unwise voucher program legislation, recommit the \$11 million to the public schools of this state, and affirm and increase its commitment to public education in North Carolina as is the State’s constitutional and educational responsibility.

Resolved, this the 12th day of April, 2014 in Fayetteville, North Carolina.