**Elizabethtown Independent Board of Education**

**Resolution in Support of Quality Public Education and Opposition to Charter Schools in Kentucky**

Whereas: The Elizabethtown Independent Board of Education believes that a system of quality public education is one of the essential foundations of America’s past, current and future greatness; and

Whereas: The Elizabethtown Independent Board of Education believes that keeping quality public education must be available to every child, regardless of heritage or circumstance and is the key to equality, freedom, and the realization of individual potential; and

Whereas: The Elizabethtown Independent Board of Education believes that without quality public education a great divide will exist between the educated and the uneducated, corresponding to a divide between the prosperous and the impoverished; and

Whereas: Severe funding challenges have caused districts across Kentucky to increase class sizes and offer increasingly fewer instructional resources, thereby threatening to unravel the social contract that we have to educate every child in our community; and

Whereas: Advocates for a system of state-approved Charter Schools, and among other educational options that divert public funds away from local community schools support the operation of private or for profit charter schools-moreover, the use of the term “public charter schools” is a misnomer; and

Whereas: The erosion of financial support for public education serves to deepen the inequalities and diminish the opportunities for every Kentucky child to be well-educated, achieve the American dream, and contribute to our nation’s greatness; and

Whereas: The Elizabethtown Independent Board of Education believes that over 20 years’ worth of evidence confirms that Charter Schools siphon funds from public schools, are not subject to the same transparency and accountability standard as public schools and have failed the very at-risk student that they claim to help; and

Whereas: The Elizabethtown Independent Board of Education opposes any Charter School legislation that will establish a separate system of state-authorized public charter schools that are funded through a funding formula that unilaterally takes critically needed funds from local school districts and redirects them to charter schools, thereby further debilitating the significantly underfunded existing system of funding for public education for all Kentucky students; now therefore;

 Be It Resolved: That the Ellzabethtown Independent Board of Education urges the Governor and State Legislators to commit to adequately fund quality public school education for all K-12 students in Elizabethtown and throughout Kentucky; to acknowledge the countless, unheralded successes of public schools in the commonwealth; to cease efforts to erode local control of public schools, and to encourage the innovation, flexibility and accountability that are necessary for Kentucky’s public schools to continuously improve; and

Be It resolved: That the Elizabethtown Independent Board of Education authorizes and directs the Superintendent to transmit an official copy of this resolution to the Governor, appropriate State Senators and Representatives, the State Board of Education and the Kentucky Department of Education

This 19th day of December, 2016

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Matt Wyatt, Chair, Elizabethtown Board of Education