

RESOLUTION ADDRESSING EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, the 2012 Republican Platform states, "Education is much more than schooling. It is the whole range of activities by which families and communities transmit to a younger generation not just knowledge and skills, but ethical and behavioral norms and traditions. It is the handing over of a personal and cultural identity. ... It is also why American education has, for the last several decades, been the focus of constant controversy, as centralizing forces outside the family and community have sought to remake education in order to remake America. They have not succeeded, but they have done immense damage;" and

WHEREAS, federal educational policies, such as the Common Core State Standards Initiative, inferior to Georgia's previous standards, and other Race to the Top initiatives as well private efforts by non-profits such as the College Board and the Gates Foundation are recent examples of how centralizing forces are seeking to remake education, undermining local control and infusing curriculum with ideologies opposed to the traditional American way of life based on Western Civilization's Judeo-Christian ideals, such as individualism, responsibility, morality, free enterprise, God-given inalienable rights, and freedom from tyranny; and

WHEREAS, recent federal Executive Branch policies are now even destructive of personal privacy in school bathrooms, locker rooms and other school-related accommodations, creating unsafe conditions and confusion of ethical and behavioral norms; and

WHEREAS, federal educational policies are restructuring the educational system to transform it into a seamless system from birth through college and into the workforce with data tracking throughout the entire process; and

WHEREAS, this constant social engineering of the Left within the American educational system has set up a situation that makes it difficult to pass on accumulated knowledge and history to younger generations creating an isolated and disassociated citizenry, severely limited in relation to the preceding generations where common knowledge was understood and appreciated; and

WHEREAS, a sign of how successful the Left has been in remaking America is evident by a candidate such as Bernie Sanders, an avowed socialist who abhors capitalism and endorses the redistribution of wealth, who has garnered enthusiastic support from millennials who do not understand the principles of freedom that established this nation; and

WHEREAS, the very survival of a free people depends upon the next generation being able to understand the principles of self-government and liberty; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Georgia believe that the first principle of education, and therefore of education policy, is that parents are the primary educators of their children and should have decision making authority over elementary and secondary education in the state of Georgia to the greatest extent possible; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 Republican Platform states, "We do not believe in a one size fits all approach to education and support providing broad education choices to parents and children at the state and local level," including the right to use tax dollars allocated for the education of their children whether used in public, private, virtual, or homeschools; and

WHEREAS, Georgia's taxpayers who pay the lion's share of the costs of education and whose children attend public school should exercise the most control over educational decisions; and

WHEREAS, education is not an enumerated power delegated to the federal government by the United States Constitution, being reserved by the Tenth Amendment to the States or to the people;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, we, the Delegates of the Georgia Republican Convention, urge our elected officials to take every action necessary to free the State of Georgia from the influence of central planners, both federal and private, and take every opportunity to return educational control to local taxpayers, parents, and teachers by devolving power back to the local level through actions such as the following:

- (1) AS was resolved by the 2015 Georgia Republican State Convention delegates, pass a constitutional amendment allowing for the election of State School Board members instead of appointment,
- (2) REVISE all academic standards so that Georgia's standards no longer conform to either Common Core or national standards and allow local flexibility on standards and testing,
- (3) CONSIDER the Parental Choice Educational Savings Account program in Georgia, provided that the State or the federal government cannot exercise control or supervision over a private school program or over homeschool instruction,
- (4) INCREASE the cap for tax deductions for private school contributions and enhance other school choice options,
- (5) CHART a bold course to redirect educational efforts in U.S. history and world history, Western literature, government, and economics in order to restore a firm knowledge of Western Civilization and American Exceptionalism as well as a sense of patriotism,
- (6) EMPHASIZE, eliminate or minimize any further interference by the United States Department of Education regarding state decisions regarding academic content, standards or assessments, or LGBT policies such as transgender use of bathrooms, locker rooms, and other school-related accommodations or programs, and urge Congress to repeal and prohibit all compulsory federal legislation that interferes with the State of Georgia's constitutional authority over educational policies, standards, and materials through civil threat, sanctions, criminal penalty, or loss of federal funding distributed by allocations or grants,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the secretary of the Republican Party is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Governor Nathan Deal, Lt. Governor Casey Cagle, the Republican leadership of the Georgia State Senate and Georgia House of Representatives, and Georgia's U.S. Senators and Representatives and upon passage of this resolution at the State Convention or by State Committee we request that this resolution shall be posted for a minimum of five years on the Georgia GOP website in a readily accessible location as a downloadable document.

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