

Resolution in support of the PA school funding litigation for fair funding

WHEREAS education in Pennsylvania is a constitutional right, articulated in Article III, Section 14 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It states that “**The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth**”; and

Whereas there is substantial evidence that both individual health and economic well-being are tied to educational outcomes;

Whereas there is ample evidence that community prosperity is related to the quality of education;

Whereas when the state fails to adequately fund education, it puts an unfair responsibility on local taxpayers, which cannot be met in low-wealth districts even when paying higher tax rates;

Whereas the General Assembly has defined what a thorough education is by identifying educational standards (the standards used in PSSA and Keystone exams) that all PA students are expected to meet; and

Whereas the current school funding system in Pennsylvania results in grossly different amounts of money spent on children in different districts in violation of the equal protection provisions of the state Constitution; with much less money spent on children in low-wealth districts even though their students have additional educational needs; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the League of Women Voters of Indiana County supports the parents of individual children, the school districts, the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools, and the PA NAACP State Conference in their suit to enforce Pennsylvania’s constitutional guarantee of “a thorough and efficient system of public education” and urges the Pennsylvania General Assembly to provide a fair, adequate, and predictable funding system that enables all children to meet state academic standards and does not discriminate against low-wealth school districts; and

Further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the governor’s office, the PA Secretary of Education, state senator Joseph Pittman and state representatives James B. Struzzi II, Abby Major, Brian Smith, and Jason Silvus, state legislators who represent, entirely or in part, school districts within Indiana County.