



# The League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A RECOMMITMENT TO QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, North Carolina has a constitutional mandate to provide a sound basic education that is essential for achieving an informed community of citizens and a productive work force; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's per pupil spending for K-12 education has fallen from 25<sup>th</sup> to 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation; and as State funding decreases Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are forced to seek a greater share of funding from their local county in order to maintain the quality of their programs leading to significant inequities between county LEAs; and

WHEREAS, despite research showing the cost-effectiveness of quality Pre-K services, the NC Pre-K per pupil State funding has decreased by 15% from 2009-2017 resulting in continued waiting lists; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina teacher pay has fallen from 21<sup>st</sup> to 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation and is less than the teacher pay in surrounding States compromising both recruitment and retention of the best qualified and most experienced teachers; and

WHEREAS, there has been a 28% decline in enrollment in teacher preparation programs in the UNC system from 2010 to 2014 creating a critical teacher shortage; and

WHEREAS, the current A-F grading system reflects the degree of poverty of the student population more than the potential and growth achievement of these students and the hard work of their teachers, and stigmatizes high poverty schools by labeling them failing schools; and

WHEREAS, funding of private school vouchers effectively diverts taxpayer dollars away from public schools to schools with no required accountability, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear (LWVLCF) calls for the N.C. General Assembly to fully fund pre-K and K-12 public education and reject the trend toward shifting education spending to local counties; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the LWVLCF calls upon the General Assembly to develop and implement a plan to raise teacher pay so as to make North Carolina competitive with surrounding States; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the LWVLCF calls upon the General Assembly to pass House Bill 803, an Act to increase the weight of school growth to 50% in the calculation of school performance scores; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the LWVLCF opposes the use of taxpayer funds for private school vouchers.

Approved by the LWVLCF Board of Directors this the 28th day of March 2016.

Sheila Fellerath, President

League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear