

Resolution in Support of House Bill 127

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly in 2016 enacted a bill to change the longstanding process for Transylvania County School Board candidate elections from nonpartisan to partisan elections; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of board of education members in the United States and in North Carolina are currently elected in a nonpartisan manner; and

WHEREAS, members of the Transylvania County Board of Education have been elected on a nonpartisan basis since 1993 as a result of legislation and in response to the desires and preferences of the Transylvania community; and

WHEREAS, school board members, unlike other elected officials, must bear responsibility to the students and parents they serve and not leaders or platforms of specific political parties; and

WHEREAS, injecting party politics into school board elections would shift the focus away from candidates who are singularly committed to the education of Transylvania County students; and

WHEREAS, school boards have the primary responsibility for setting school policy and hiring school teachers and administrators and that neither of these responsibilities should be influenced by political party affiliation; and

WHEREAS, educational issues decided by school boards are nonpartisan issues and the boards' judicial and personnel functions must be nonpartisan; and

WHEREAS, the Transylvania County Schools Board of Education has functioned well over many past years with nonpartisan elections, affording respectful interaction and appropriate focus on a school board's singular mission, the education of the students of our county; and

WHEREAS, focused civil discourse and cooperative spirit exercised by all school board members for the greater good of our community would be harmed by partisan school board elections;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in order to best serve the citizens and students of Transylvania County, the Transylvania County Board of Education hereby respectfully requests that the General Assembly and Transylvania County's locally-elected representatives in the General Assembly support a repeal of House Bill 1133 enacted in 2016, and fully support House Bill 127 sponsored by Representative Cody Henson for reinstatement of nonpartisan elections of members to the Transylvania County School Board.

ADOPTED this the 20th day of March 2017.

Chairman

Secretary