

By: Representative B. McKenzie

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO OPPOSE THE MISLEADINGLY TITLED "EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT OF 2024" AND ENCOURAGE ALL REGISTERED ARKANSAS VOTERS TO OPPOSE THE "EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT OF 2024".

Subtitle

TO OPPOSE THE MISLEADINGLY TITLED "EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT OF 2024" AND ENCOURAGE ALL REGISTERED ARKANSAS VOTERS TO OPPOSE THE "EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT OF 2024."

WHEREAS, Arkansas became a national leader in education reform in 2023 with the passage of the LEARNS Act; and

WHEREAS, the LEARNS Act provided historic increases in teacher pay and investments in public education including literacy coaches, tutoring grants, and pre-K; and

WHEREAS, the LEARNS Act created universal education freedom in both private and public schools; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Arkansas families, many of whom have children with disabilities, are now participating in the LEARNS Act's Education Freedom Account Program; and

WHEREAS, religious liberty is a fundamental cornerstone of the American



and Arkansas way of life; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas has made significant strides in providing tax relief to hardworking Arkansans; and

WHEREAS, Arkansans currently have more educational rights than at any time in our state's history; and

WHEREAS, the "Educational Rights Amendment of 2024" includes no cost projections or pay-for mechanisms and will certainly cost at least \$1 billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) per year, according to conservative estimates; and

WHEREAS, the "Educational Rights Amendment of 2024" would create multiple new welfare programs that would become constitutional rights and include no work requirements, time limits, or income restrictions whatsoever, allowing the richest Arkansans to take resources from hard working taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the "Educational Rights Amendment of 2024" would require tax increases and reverse much of the progress the General Assembly has made on tax reform, even this very week; and

WHEREAS, the "Educational Rights Amendment of 2024" would jeopardize teacher pay raises; and

WHEREAS, the "Educational Rights Amendment of 2024" would impose extreme regulations on private schools which are designed to push them out of the Education Freedom program entirely; and

WHEREAS, the "Educational Rights Amendment of 2024" would impose unconstitutional violations of religious liberty by requiring private schools to violate their religious beliefs and prohibit them from teaching religious subjects entirely; and

WHEREAS, the "Educational Rights Amendment of 2024" would reopen the door to indoctrination and extreme ideologies such as Critical Race Theory

into Arkansas schools; and

WHEREAS, the above mentioned policies would be cemented into the state constitution and would handcuff future General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, the "Educational Rights Amendment of 2024" would rip critical funding away from Arkansas families and special needs students,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives oppose the misleadingly titled "Educational Rights Amendment of 2024" and encourage all registered Arkansas voters to oppose it.