

Proposed Resolution to End Collective Bargaining for Teachers Unions

Whereas: School board member and others who sit across the table from union representatives are elected by voters who include the teachers. In fact, the teachers play a very large role in the election of the representatives who bargain with public union representatives. For them to bargain in good faith – representing only the buyer of the labor – would require a level of ethics few, if any, elected officials are capable of achieving. We should not even expect it.

Whereas: School districts need the flexibility to reward and promote effective teachers. Tennessee is a right-to-work state. But Tennessee does not authorize firefighters, police officers, state employees, etc., to engage in collective bargaining. These groups have trade organizations, but the state and local governments are not required to negotiate, except for teachers.

Whereas: If 44 school systems are getting along just fine without mandatory collective bargaining agreements and have great relationships with their teachers, then doing away with MANDATORY collective bargaining in the other systems will not bring disaster.

Whereas: The emphasis needs to be what is best for the students and not just focused on things like "seniority" trumping other factors when making assignments. The best, most effective teachers could be in the classroom instead of just protecting the longest serving teacher.

The State Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Tennessee thereby resolves to support and encourage the passage of HB 130. This bill would provide a 'level playing field' for all teachers and provide them with many choices about which professional organizations they chose to participate in. Schools and teachers can focus on things like "What can we do to improve student performance?" and "What do you need in the classroom?"