RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE TO FULFILL ITS
CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY TO PROVIDE EVERY CHILD ACCESS TO
A SOUND BASIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, for more than 25 years, North Carolina lawmakers from both
parties have failed to meet their constitutional obligation to provide all children in
the state with a sound basic education; and

WHEREAS, far too many students, particularly students of color, students
from economically-disadvantaged families, students with disabilities, English
learners, and rural students have been denied the opportunities promised to
them under the North Carolina Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the State Constitution and North Carolina General Statutes
place the responsibility to fund a public school system that provides every child in
the state with access to a sound basic education with the State of North Carolina,
both the executive and legislative branches; and

WHEREAS, adequate educational opportunities cannot realistically be
provided without adequate education funding; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, the State submitted to the court a long-term
comprehensive remedial plan (“Leandro Plan”) detailing specific steps State
leaders must enact to remedy the ongoing constitutional violations in our public
school system and ensure that all students have access to the education they are
owed under the State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Leandro Plan requests the bare minimum of the steps State
leaders must take to fulfill their constitutional duties and is not a menu from
which policymakers may select their preferred initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Governor Cooper’s Budget Recommendations for 2021-2023
demonstrate that the Leandro Plan can be fully implemented within existing State
resources; and
WHEREAS, on June 7, Judge W. David Lee ordered the state to implement the Leandro Plan in full and in accordance with the timelines set forth therein; and

WHEREAS, district leaders, including school board members, stand ready to direct additional State resources to the students and schools with the greatest needs, such that all children have an equal opportunity to realize their full potential; and

WHEREAS, receiving a quality education is paramount to catalyzing the full growth and self-actualization of students, families, communities, and our State as a whole.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Robeson County Board of Commissioners request(s) that the North Carolina General Assembly fully enact the policy and funding reforms included in the Leandro Plan to ensure that all North Carolina students have access to a sound basic education by the 2028 school year.

Adopted this 19th day of September, 2022

Wixie Stephens, Board Chair

Tammy Freeman, Clerk to the Board