

**LEE COUNTY BOARD
DIXON, ILLINOIS**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION REGARDING
OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 2827**

WHEREAS, House Bill 2827, introduced on February 5, 2025, by Representative Terra Costa Howard, proposes the creation of the “Homeschool Act,” which would impose significant new state mandates on families who choose to educate their children at home, including compulsory registration, detailed reporting, and state oversight of curriculum and record-keeping; and

WHEREAS, the bill requires homeschool parents or guardians to submit a Homeschool Declaration Form annually to the local public school district or school principal, and defines failure to do so as grounds for labeling the child truant—potentially subjecting parents to fines, legal penalties, or referral to child welfare agencies; and

WHEREAS, HB 2827 imposes administrative burdens and introduces credentialing requirements by mandating that a homeschool “administrator” must hold a high school diploma or its equivalent, thereby interfering with the long-standing rights of parents and guardians to direct their children’s education regardless of formal qualifications; and

WHEREAS, the bill further mandates that homeschool families maintain an “educational portfolio” for each child, including samples of work and documentation of academic progress, subject to inspection by regional education authorities at their discretion, creating the potential for arbitrary enforcement, selective scrutiny, and undue stress on law-abiding families; and

WHEREAS, HB 2827 also expands regulatory authority over private and religious schools by requiring all such schools in Illinois to register with the State Board of Education annually and report detailed student information, including name, date of birth, grade level, home address, and guardian contact information—raising concerns about government overreach, data privacy, and religious freedom; and

WHEREAS, the vague and broad scope of the proposed legislation creates ambiguity around the extent of state authority over private education and may inadvertently entangle legitimate and historically protected forms of instruction in unnecessary regulation; and

WHEREAS, HB 2827 requires homeschool instruction to be substantially equivalent to the curriculum prescribed by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), thereby subjecting homeschool families to evolving public school standards that may be altered at any time by administrative rule without legislative oversight or public input, raising serious concerns about parental autonomy, philosophical and religious freedom,

and the potential for future mandates that conflict with the values or instructional approaches of individual families; and

WHEREAS, HB 2827 grants discretionary authority to regional education officials to request reviews of homeschool educational portfolios without clearly defined criteria or cause, raising the risk of selective or arbitrary enforcement and the potential for discrimination against families based on educational philosophy, religious beliefs, or other personal factors; and

WHEREAS, the bill allows for enforcement through existing truancy laws, meaning parents who fail to comply with new filing or instructional requirements could face fines, court proceedings, or even misdemeanor charges, effectively criminalizing parents for educational decisions that have previously been legal and protected in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, HB 2827 may impose a disproportionate burden on families with limited financial resources or formal education, as well as those pursuing nontraditional educational models such as unschooling or experiential learning, thereby undermining equitable access to alternative education and marginalizing communities who rely on flexible approaches to instruction; and

WHEREAS, the legislation creates new obligations for Regional Offices of Education and other local authorities without corresponding funding or support, constituting an unfunded mandate that may strain already limited resources, reduce efficiency, and divert attention from other critical educational and student support services; and

WHEREAS, Illinois has long recognized homeschooling as a valid form of private education under existing legal precedent (*People v. Levisen*, 1950), and HB 2827 represents a substantial departure from this legal framework by singling out home educators for separate regulation, potentially undermining their constitutional protections under state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, the bill has generated overwhelming public opposition, with tens of thousands of Illinois parents, educators, and citizens filing witness slips and contacting their legislators to express concern that the proposal infringes on fundamental parental rights, erodes family autonomy, and imposes unwarranted burdens on non-public forms of education; and

WHEREAS, Lee County affirms its commitment to protecting the rights of parents to educate their children without excessive state interference, and to supporting educational pluralism, religious freedom, and local oversight that respects the diverse values and circumstances of its residents; and

WHEREAS, HB 2827 is currently pending in the Illinois General Assembly and has not yet become law, providing an important opportunity for local governing bodies and

concerned citizens to voice their opposition and advocate for the preservation of long-standing educational freedoms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the members of the Lee County Board, on behalf of the People of Lee County, Illinois states as follows:

- 1) The Lee County Board strongly opposes House Bill 2827 and any similar legislation that infringes upon the rights of parents and guardians to direct the education of their children, or that imposes burdensome and intrusive mandates on homeschool and private educational institutions.
- 2) The Lee County Board urges the Illinois General Assembly to reject HB 2827 in its entirety and to avoid any future efforts that seek to restrict educational freedom, impose data-collection mandates on private citizens, or expand state control over alternative forms of education without clear justification and due process.
- 3) The Lee County Board urges Governor JB Pritzker to veto House Bill 2827 or any similar legislation should it reach his desk, in defense of parental rights, individual liberties, and the historical balance between public oversight and private educational autonomy in Illinois.
- 4) The Lee County Clerk is hereby directed to send copies of this Resolution to Governor Pritzker, the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, the President of the Illinois Senate, the Minority Leaders of both chambers, and the representatives and senators serving Lee County.

PASSED BY THE LEE COUNTY BOARD

THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2025

By: _____
Lee County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

Lee County Clerk