RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF REPEALING THE GALLAGHER AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, all property tax revenues pay for schools, roads, fire protection, libraries, police, and other local services, with local property taxes serving as the first component of the state's School Finance Act funding, called 'local share;' and

WHEREAS, local property tax is the basis of additional voter-approved mill levy overrides and bonds in support of our schools; and

WHEREAS, the Gallagher Amendment in the Colorado Constitution mandates that property taxes assessed on personal residences can only make up 45% of the total property taxes the state collects, with business property taxes making up the remaining 55%; and

WHEREAS, the residential assessment rate has dropped from 21% in 1982 to 7.15% in 2020, while the non-residential rate has stayed at 29%. The non-residential assessment rate impacts business property owners, farmers, ranchers, and landowners; and

WHEREAS, every time the residential assessment rate drops, the state must backfill the loss in local revenue for schools. The continual drop in the residential assessment rate creates significant pressure on the General Fund and other areas of the state budget, and the state has not been able to meet its K-12 public education obligation as tracked through the Budget Stabilization Factor, the amount of revenue withheld from the state share based on full funding of the School Finance Act; and

WHEREAS, the residential assessment rate is projected to drop next year from 7.15 to 5.88%, resulting in a $250-$400 million drop in local revenues and a minimum impact of nearly $30 million to Jeffco Public Schools if the state cannot backfill this reduction; and

WHEREAS, Jeffco Public Schools is already operating on $106 million less in state share funding in the current school year due to the Budget Stabilization Factor; and

WHEREAS, Jeffco Public Schools has reopened schools for in-person as well as hybrid learning, which requires additional financial resources to ensure compliance with guidance from local health agencies due to the health emergency; and

WHEREAS, repealing the Gallagher Amendment will prevent a loss in desperately needed funding and allow schools to maintain essential services to students, families, and the community; and

WHEREAS, given student, family and community reliance on Jeffco Public Schools to meet public education needs within Jefferson County with fewer financial resources, the Board declares that Repealing the Gallagher Amendment is a matter of official concern.

Our mission: To provide a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future.
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education officially declares its support for Repealing the Gallagher Amendment for the purpose of increasing funding of public education in the State of Colorado and Jeffco Public Schools, and urges Jefferson County voters to vote yes on Amendment B on this November’s ballot.

The Board authorizes the expenditure of district funds to distribute a factual summary regarding Repealing the Gallagher Amendment, in accordance with the Fair Campaign Practices Act, C.R.S. 1-45-117.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 1st day of October 2020.

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By: ____________________________
Susan Harmon
President, Board of Education

Attest:

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Stephanie Schooley
Secretary, Board of Education

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