

RES 17-044

Wilmington, Delaware  
June 15, 2017

#4376

Sponsors:

Council  
President  
Shabazz

Council  
Member  
Chukwuocha

**WHEREAS**, The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson as means to ensure equal access to a quality education for all students, especially those living in poverty, while emphasizing high academic standards and accountability in public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, in January, House Resolution 610 was introduced in the United States Congress, the chief component of which – titled the “Choices in Education Act of 2017” – calls for the distribution of “federal funds for elementary and secondary education in the form of vouchers for eligible students...”; and

**WHEREAS**, H.R. 610 would repeal the provisions of ESEA, and would design a funding mechanism for federal block grants provided to states to carry out a school voucher funding system to award such vouchers to parents who elect to enroll their child in a private school, or to home-school their child; and

**WHEREAS**, school voucher programs carry the concern of reducing funds spent on public education, which could result in lessened funding to public schools and fewer resources to disadvantaged, low-income students. The *Congressional Research Institute* has found that this resolution would take money away from public schools and make it more difficult to hold educators accountable; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council wishes to express its opposition of House Resolution 610 given the potential detrimental impact it could have on public schools serving Wilmington students, especially in light of the current efforts related to the CDC Community

Advisory Council and the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission to help harness additional resources for public education.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON,** that City Council opposes House Resolution 610 and encourages its federal representatives to consider the impact of H.R. 610 on Wilmington youth, particularly given the population of low-income families and children in Delaware's largest city.

Passed by City Council,  
June 15, 2017

Attest: Maribel Slijo  
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 15  
day of June, 2017.

William B. Zarr  
Assistant City Solicitor