

## RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION #117

**WHEREAS**, the November 3, 2020 ballot will contain a proposed citizen's initiative, Proposition #117, Voter Approval Requirement for Creation of Certain Fee-Based Enterprises, which if enacted, beginning in 2021, would require that voter approval be obtained in order for new programs to be created as state enterprises for the purpose of Article X, Section 20, of the Colorado Constitution (TABOR), and in order for existing state programs that are not enterprises to qualify as enterprises. The voter approval requirement applies if the program's projected or actual revenue from fees and surcharges exceeds \$100 million over the first five years for which the program will operate as an enterprise. The measure also includes required language to be used in ballot titles for elections required under the measure; and

**WHEREAS**, fees are revenues that are collected for a specific purpose and often for the funding of quasi-government entities referred to as enterprises. Examples of enterprises owned by the state government include public colleges and universities, the Colorado Lottery, and the Division of Parks and Wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, taxes are revenues collected by the government which can be used for any purpose the legislature chooses. Taxes require voters to approve and, since the adoption of TABOR 28 years ago in 1992, voters have approved only a total of three statewide tax revenue increases, which include increased rates on tobacco products, new taxes on marijuana, and online sports betting; and

**WHEREAS**, further limitations placed on the Colorado Legislature to restrict its ability to fund essential functions of the state will harm its ability to fulfill its obligations, such as providing state aid to school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, Proposition #117 will further exacerbate the state's ability to fulfill its commitment to providing state aid to Colorado public schools, which is meant to provide desperately needed funding to support schools as they weather the economic toll of the global pandemic by assisting schools in providing students educational opportunities to prepare them for success in college, career, and life; preparing a qualified workforce for decades to come; and ensuring that Colorado's economic prosperity is shared with every community in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board declares that Proposition #117 is a matter of official concern.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education officially declares its opposition for Proposition #117 as it would be detrimental to public education in the State of Colorado.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education authorizes the expenditure of District funds to distribute a factual summary regarding Proposition #117, in accordance with the Fair Campaign Practices Act, C.R.S. 1-45-117.

**Adopted and approved by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of September 2, 2020.**