

**RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO
THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY
AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CSP-SE GRANT AWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TRUST**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis has the statutory responsibility to supervise and govern the free public schools and provide for the instruction of all children in the City of St. Louis as guaranteed in the Missouri Constitution;

WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Education has awarded a \$35.5 million Charter School Program State Entity grant to the opportunity trust for the growth and expansion of charter schools within the State of Missouri;

WHEREAS under Missouri law, with limited exceptions, charter schools are only permitted to operate in the City of St. Louis and Kansas City Public Schools Districts;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis does not have a working relationship with the Opportunity Trust, does not collaborate with the Opportunity Trust, and has opposed efforts by the Opportunity Trust to enact legislation to divert district funds to charter schools;

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2022, the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis voted not to renew the Consortium Partnership Network, which was falsely cited as a collective partnership and collaboration between the Opportunity Trust and the City of St. Louis School District in the Opportunity Trust's CPS-SE grant application;

WHEREAS, in February of 2021, in recognition that in 2007-08, there were 103 public schools serving 60,642 children and in 2019-20, there were 110 public schools serving 49,339 children, the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis passed a resolution calling for a moratorium on new school openings in the City of St. Louis until a comprehensive city-wide plan for education is developed;

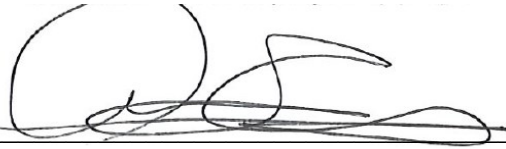
WHEREAS, on July 16, 2021, the legislative branch of the City of St. Louis municipal government, the Board of Alderman, passed a similar resolution stating, "local, state, and federal support for school choice programs continues to create a system of schools and programs that fight over a declining population of children and a shrinking pool of resources, leading to duplicated services and system-wide inefficiencies";

WHEREAS, the Opportunity Trust has continued to invest in new charter schools and the expansion of charter schools despite the overwhelming consensus of the

City of St. Louis' elected officials that a moratorium on new schools is in the best interests of the city and that the continued opening and closing of schools is detrimental to the children in the City of St. Louis;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis calls on the United States Department of Education to review and rescind its award of a grant to the Opportunity Trust under the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's CSP Grants to State Entities Programs.

Adopted this 16th day of October, 2023, as attested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antionette Cousins', written over a horizontal line.

Antionette "Toni" Cousins,
President, Board of Education of the City of St. Louis