

**Sponsor: Representative Juandalynn Givan, Alabama**

***Enhancing Educational Opportunities for Students***

WHEREAS, The National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women) is committed to providing the highest quality education and learning environments for students; and

WHEREAS, the Open Enrollment Act seeks to improve educational achievement and enhance parental choice in education by allowing students to enroll in any public school and educational program throughout their state, regardless of residence; and

WHEREAS, this legislation will allow a parent or guardian of a student to apply for attendance in any nonresident public school, either within or outside the district of residence; the school must give timely notice of acceptance or rejection of a student application; and

WHEREAS, the Open Enrollment Act does not require any school district to change its existing school structures or program requirements; and

WHEREAS, school districts will be required to post information on their websites concerning schools and the open enrollment process to assist parents and guardians in making informed decisions for their students; and

WHEREAS, a student application can only be rejected for admission due to lack of space, existing eligibility criteria, desegregation plan requirements, expulsion record, or late enrollment; and

WHEREAS, the Open Enrollment Act makes provisions for transportation of the student within the nonresident district and, under some circumstances, within the resident district; and

WHEREAS, except under certain conditions, students accepted through the open enrollment process are entitled to remain enrolled in the school of choice through the entire school year; and

WHEREAS, providing every student with a quality education is of vital importance to NBCSL, and the Open Enrollment Act will facilitate that effort; and

WHEREAS, the Open Enrollment Act will greatly enhance the educational opportunities available to every student and is worthy of approbation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women) encourages state governments to adopt policies that improve educational achievement and enhance the opportunity for parental choice in education by

providing additional options to pupils in their state to enroll in public schools and educational programs throughout the state without regard to pupil residence.