WASHINGTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Washington County, Tennessee

October 25, 2025

RESOLUTION OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE URGING THE STATE OF TENNESSEE TO REPEAL CERTIFICATE OF NEED (CON) LAWS TO ELIMINATE HEALTHCARE MONOPOLIES, RESTORE COMPETITION, AND IMPROVE ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, AND QUALITY OF CARE

WHEREAS, the Washington County Republican Party Executive Committee recognizes the paramount importance of accessible, affordable, and high-quality healthcare as necessary for all residents of Washington County and the State of Tennessee, essential to the well-being and prosperity of our communities; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 22 of the Tennessee Constitution explicitly states, “That perpetuities and monopolies are contrary to the genius of a free State, and shall not be allowed,” a provision that has appeared in every Tennessee Constitution since 1796, reflecting the state’s enduring commitment to prohibiting monopolies that undermine public welfare and economic freedom; and

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 8 of the Tennessee Constitution further provides that the Legislature shall not pass any law “for the benefit of individuals inconsistent with the general laws of the land,” underscoring that state law should not favor specific entities or create monopolies to the detriment of the broader public; and

WHEREAS, the Founders of the United States championed free markets and warned against monopolies that stifle competition and harm the public good; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson wrote, “I hope we shall… crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength,” and James Madison likewise asserted that monopolies are “justly classed among the greatest nuisances in government”; and

WHEREAS, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, and other early statesmen recognized that fair competition is essential to innovation and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, leaders across the political spectrum — including Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and modern leaders such as Senators Rand Paul, Josh Hawley, Bernie Sanders, and Elizabeth Warren — have all raised concern over monopolization and consolidation of power; and

WHEREAS, economists from diverse perspectives, including Milton Friedman, Friedrich Hayek, and Joseph Stiglitz, have warned that central planning and government-granted monopolies, such as CON laws, suppress innovation, increase costs, and reduce quality of service; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan studies and testimony have documented that CON laws reduce competition among healthcare providers, leading to higher costs, lower quality of care, reduced innovation, and depressed wages for healthcare workers; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Trade Committee (FTC) and economists within both the Trump and Biden administrations have criticized these laws for their anticompetitive effects and failure to achieve their stated purpose; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, COPA laws have facilitated the consolidation of healthcare systems, particularly in rural and Appalachian regions, resulting in fewer choices for patients, longer transport times for emergency services, and diminished quality of care; and

WHEREAS, such monopolization has had direct local impacts, including delays for Washington County EMS units and area hospitals facing capacity restrictions that jeopardize timely care for residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Washington County Republican Party Executive Committee, meeting in regular session this 28th day of October, 2025, that:

1. Legislative Action: The Washington County Republican Party Executive Committee urges the Tennessee General Assembly to repeal Certificate of Need (CON) laws to restore healthcare competition and eliminate monopolistic control in the state.

2. Protection of Patients and Providers: The Committee calls upon the Governor, the Tennessee Department of Health, and the General Assembly to prioritize patient welfare, healthcare access, and economic fairness over government-enabled monopolies.

3. Statewide Unity: The Committee calls on other republican county executive committees, the Tennessee Republican Party State Executive Committee, legislative bodies and municipalities across Tennessee to adopt similar resolutions, joining in a unified call for reform.

4. Support for Existing Efforts: The Committee supports initiatives such as the Tennessee Healthcare Quality and Access Act of 2025 (HB970 / SB853), sponsored by Rep. David Hawk and Sen. Brent Taylor, as a meaningful step toward restoring competition, access, and quality of care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution serves as a declaration of Washington County Republican Party Executive Committee's support for free-

market healthcare reform that empowers Tennesseans, reduces costs, improves access, and ensures fair wages for healthcare professionals, consistent with the Tennessee Constitution and the enduring wisdom of leaders across political and economic traditions.

Adopted this 28th day of October, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Washington County Republican Party Executive Committee