



PHIL BREDESEN
THE GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE

7 January 2010

The Honorable Kent Williams
Speaker of the House
19 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Speaker Williams:

I am transmitting with this letter a Proclamation that I have signed today calling an extraordinary session of the General Assembly at 4:00 p.m. on January 12, 2010.

I look forward to working with you during this session to capitalize on the unique opportunities that are in front of us in public education.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Phil Bredesen", written in a cursive style.

Phil Bredesen



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 12 of the Tennessee Constitution states, "The State of Tennessee recognizes the inherent value of education and encourages its support"; and "[t]he General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance, support and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools"; and "[t]he General Assembly may establish and support such post-secondary educational institutions, including public institutions of higher learning, as it determines"; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the General Assembly and the Governor have committed to passing and implementing laws to promote education improvement at the pre-kindergarten through twelfth-grade levels; to promote education access and improvement in post-secondary ("higher education") institutions; and to support increased educational attainment, including increased graduation rates at the high-school and college levels; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and the General Assembly have endeavored to maintain equitable and adequate levels of public funding for education, even during times of economic and budgetary distress; and

WHEREAS, consistent commitments by the Governor and the General Assembly to encourage education improvement and maintain education funding can be seen most notably in the passage of legislative measures including 2007 Public Chapter No. 376 and 2007 Public Chapter No. 369, which resulted in higher academic standards and increased accountability in public schools; a modernization of the formula upon which the Basic Education Program ("BEP") is premised; and an overall increase in BEP funding; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the State Board of Education, responding to directives by the Governor and the General Assembly, adopted more rigorous high school graduation requirements with the specific goal of giving Tennessee's children and young adults the skills they need to reach adequate levels of career and college readiness; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee's leadership in national education reform initiatives, including the American Diploma Project; its launch of nationally recognized education efforts, including Tennessee's voluntary pre-kindergarten program; its pursuit of innovative policies through programs such as Teach Tennessee; and its nationally known commitment to gathering educational data for the purposes of promoting education improvement all have demonstrated the Volunteer State's commitment to national education reform; and

WHEREAS, taken together, the aforementioned developments have positioned Tennessee at a unique moment in history to accelerate education improvement and compete for unprecedented levels of public education funding from the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009, provides \$4.35 billion for the Race to the Top Fund, a competitive grant program designed to encourage and reward states that are creating the conditions for education innovation and reform; achieving significant improvement in student outcomes, including making substantial gains in student achievement, closing achievement gaps, improving high school graduation rates and ensuring student preparation for success in college and careers; and implementing ambitious plans in four core education reform areas; and

WHEREAS, the Race to the Top Fund competition will reward states that have demonstrated success in raising student achievement and have the best plans to accelerate their reforms in the future, and those states that are rewarded will serve as models to promote the best reform ideas across the country; and

WHEREAS, with respect to the federal government's Race to the Top Fund competition, the State of Tennessee has the best opportunity for achieving success if it submits a competitive proposal during the first round of applications, which are due to the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C., no later than 4:30 o'clock p.m., eastern standard time, on Tuesday, January 19, 2010; and

WHEREAS, improvement in higher education outcomes increasingly is viewed as critical to the overall improvement of the quality of life and standard of living of citizens in Tennessee and the United States, and earlier this year, the Governor and the General Assembly acknowledged unique opportunities for improvement in Tennessee's higher education system, including institutions governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents and the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has regularly communicated with members of the public and leaders of the General Assembly during 2009 regarding the need for higher education improvement, and through these communications consensus has formed around three core higher education reform areas; and

WHEREAS, the three core higher education reform areas include the following: adopting policies to improve degree completion at two-year and four-year colleges and universities, including raising current degree rates and encouraging more Tennesseans to pursue post-secondary degrees; ensuring that public funding for higher education is based on performance and outcomes; and elevating the research mission of the state's leading research institution, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and the General Assembly also recognize especially unique opportunities to improve the reach and appeal of Tennessee's public community colleges and technology centers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by Article III, Section 9 of the Tennessee Constitution, do hereby call the One Hundred Sixth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee to meet and convene in extraordinary session at the Capitol in Nashville at four o'clock p.m., central standard time, on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, for the following purposes:

- (1) Considering and acting upon legislation either independent or amendatory revising, amending or adding to Tennessee's laws relative to the following topics concerning kindergarten through grade twelve education and post-secondary education in Tennessee:
 - (a) Annual estimates of teacher and school effects on student progress;
 - (b) Performance goals and assessments for all public schools and local education agencies;
 - (c) Interventions and actions for all public schools and local education agencies placed in improvement status;
 - (d) The creation and operation of an achievement school district;

- (e) The creation of a teacher evaluation advisory committee to make recommendations to the State Board of Education for annual evaluations of all certificated persons employed by local education agencies;
 - (f) Class size standards for career and technical courses;
 - (g) Teacher suspension and dismissal hearings;
 - (h) Salary schedules for teachers;
 - (i) Tenure for teachers, supervisors, principals and all other certificated personnel employed by any local board or education for service in public elementary and secondary schools in this state;
 - (j) Establishment of additional graduate research programs and activities;
 - (k) Enhancing transfer and articulation between two-year and four-year colleges and universities governed by the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents;
 - (l) Remedial and Developmental instruction at public universities in the University of Tennessee System and the State University and Community College System;
 - (m) Establishment of dual-admission and dual enrollment policies and procedures for institutions in and between the State University and Community College System and the University of Tennessee System;
 - (n) Revising standards for higher education master planning and directing the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to revise the policies and formulae for the fair and equitable distribution and use of public funds among the state's institutions of higher education;
 - (o) The management and operation of the state community college system;
 - (p) Consideration of statutory changes necessary to enhance Tennessee's application to the United States Department of Education for the Race to the Top Fund; and
 - (q) Consideration of statutory changes to implement strategies to enhance college completion.
- (2) Considering and acting upon legislation relative to workers compensation requirements for sole proprietors and partners that results in the temporary suspension of the provisions of Acts 2008, Public Chapter 1041, and the effective revival of the provisions of Tenn. Code Ann §50-6-113(f) as such provisions existed on December 30, 2009;
 - (3) Considering and acting upon legislation to make appropriations sufficient to pay the expenses of the extraordinary session of the General Assembly, including the expenses of carrying out any actions taken pursuant to this call;
 - (4) Considering and acting upon legislation to make appropriations sufficient to provide the first year's funding for any act which receives final passage during the extraordinary session;
 - (5) Considering and acting upon legislation, if such should become necessary, in accordance with Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution, providing for the dollar amount and rate of growth any appropriation from state tax revenue may exceed the estimated rate of growth of the State's economy;
 - (6) Considering and acting upon a resolution to invite the Governor to address the Senate and House of Representatives, meeting in joint convention, on the reasons why an extraordinary session of the General Assembly has been called; and

(7) Considering and acting upon a resolution, as provided for in Article II, Section 8 of the Tennessee Constitution, at the General Assembly's discretion, setting a date and time for the convening of the second regular session of the One Hundred Sixth General Assembly.



In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at the Capitol in Nashville on this 7th day of January, 2010.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Phil Bredezen".

Phil Bredezen

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lu Hargett".

Secretary of State