

**TO: Honorable Representative Matt Ramsey, Chairman
Honorable Brandon Beach, Chairman**

**House and Study Committee on the
Preservation of the Hope Scholarship Program**

**FROM: Rev. Willie J. Webb, Pastor
Foundation Baptist Church, INC.
Atlanta, Ga.**

RE: Hope Scholarship Optimum Funding Appeal

DATE: Thursday, December 10, 2015

Thank you for allowing me to appear before this honorable House and Senate Committee.

The looming deterioration of education in Georgia is a very serious threat to the security and wellbeing of this State and Nation.

God has blessed Georgia with some of the greatest educational institutions in the Nation. God has blessed Georgia and America with the knowledge, the technology, ethical, moral and spiritual resources to lead the world.

The world is looking to Georgia and America to set universal quality living standards. The world is looking to Georgia and America to provide standards for global leadership.

These universal standards and global leadership must be undergirded and supported by the best quality education available. If the standards are to be credible and the leadership competent, this Committee must establish funding for quality education as a top priority in Georgia through the Hope Scholarship Program.

A quality education is so essential and vital for human life and quality living in this complex 21st Century, that if we fail to provide it, we are guilty of criminal negligence and crimes against humanity.

Dr. William Glasser, in his book, Schools without Failure, makes the significant case, that school failure is a major failure that precipitates failure in everything else. In this technological, heterogeneous, cultural diverse and pluralistic society, we can no longer afford the destructive potentials of ignorance and evil.

We must not only provide education for the minds of our youth, but we must go a step further. The reason we must go a step further is because, "It is unwise, irresponsible and dangerous to educate minds and ignore the ethical, moral and spiritual guidance of those minds." (The Way Out of Darkness, P.120).

I am appealing to this honorable Committee to resolve, to set top priorities with the Hope Scholarship Funding to maximize the education of our youth – TO EDUCATE THEIR HEADS, THEIR HANDS, THEIR HEARTS and THEIR HEALTH.

When you do a proper cost benefit analysis, you will find that IGNORANCE AND EVIL cost much, much more than the education we can and must provide.

I appeal to this honorable Committee on behalf of the millions of neglected, ignored, impoverished, misguided and confused children and youth of Georgia, to use your leverage, commitment and authority to resolve to wipe out ignorance and evil. If we fail to wipe them out, they will not fail to wipe us out.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Pastor Willie J. Webb