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Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Rep. Angie Nixon on Unaccountable & Discriminatory Voucher Expansion of HB 1

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Rep. Angie Nixon on Unaccountable & Discriminatory Voucher Expansion of HB 1

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, **Representative Angie Nixon (D-Jacksonville)** offered three amendments to HB 1 in the House Choice and Innovation Subcommittee. The amendments were filed to ensure funding is <u>reserved for students in need</u>, that the recipient institutions could <u>no longer legally discriminate</u> against students, and would have to <u>serve students with Individual Education Plans</u> (IEP).

These amendments were rejected by the committee. In response, **Representative Nixon** offered the following statement:

"All of our kids, no matter their income, race, gender, or zip code, deserve a fair shot at achieving their dreams, starting with the right to a high quality public education. Our local public schools are an investment we all make to create a brighter future for students and our communities as a whole. But Florida's GOP leadership is legislating publicly funded discrimination in education, leading to a new era of segregation. This bill will give handouts to wealthy families by redirecting public tax dollars to institutions with zero oversight and accountability while defunding public schools that serve over 90% of our students.

"My people-friendly amendments would have made some marginal improvements to HB 1. If the Legislature insists on funding unaccountable institutions, it's common sense we require that these schools will serve students with IEPs, that they do not allow discrimination in any form, and that we will not give the ultra-wealthy unnecessary handouts at the expense of families in need. As the assault on our education system continues, I'll keep pushing to fully fund public schools for all of our kids."