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CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CCPS Superintendent of Schools Issues a Call to Action to Oppose Royce Amendment & Support the Lewis Amendment *District and county residents at risk of losing almost \$20 Million annually in local sales taxes*

JONESBORO- Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) Superintendent, Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, asks Clayton County Public Schools stakeholders to mobilize efforts in opposition of the Royce Amendment offered by Representative Ed Royce of California. Essentially, the Amendment to H.R. 4 (The Royce Amendment) would remove local sales tax revenue from Clayton County Georgia relative to the use of local sales taxes levied on aviation fuel to instead fund surface transportation projects in the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport area that benefit airport operations, passengers or airport users. This amendment does not provide Clayton County with any relief as local sales taxes would still be diverted from current local uses.

Furthermore, the FAA's recent policy severely impacts the ability of the Clayton County community to fund improvements to our schools and provide other vital services that we have used these taxes to fund for over two decades. The Royce Amendment does not address the issue that Clayton County Georgia and other non-sponsors are facing. The use of local sales taxes levied on aviation fuel to fund airport or airport related projects is inconsistent with the 2014 clarification, the underlying 1996 law, and the FAA precedent.

According to the amendment recently submitted by Rep. Royce to the House Rules Committee, H.R. 4—FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 allows revenues from state or local general sales taxes collected on aviation fuel that were in effect between December 8, 2014 and December 7, 2017, to be spent on surface transportation projects that are determined by the Secretary of Transportation to be (1) in the immediate vicinity of the airport from which the tax revenue is generated; and (2) will significantly benefit airport operations, airport passengers, or other airport users. All general sales taxes put into effect after December 7, 2017 would have to abide by the FAA rulemaking.

We encourage Clayton County community to not only oppose the amendment to H.R. 4 and to support the amendment by Representative John Lewis, which would allow non-airport sponsors to be exempt from an FAA policy forcing local sales taxes that are applied to aviation fuel to be spent only on airport or for aviation purposes.

"Let's make sure our voices are heard as we oppose the Royce Amendment that is not favorable to Clayton County entities and support the Lewis Amendment that would allow use of the local sales taxes on aviation fuel to be used in a manner consistent with their enactment, Georgia Law and the Georgia Constitution," stated Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent of Schools.

"I urge everyone to contact the Congressional and local legislative leaders to let them know that Clayton County citizens are demanding support for our students, their families and all vested stakeholders as cited in the

amendment presented by Rep. John Lewis that would help our community and other communities similarly situated,” he added.

We will continue to monitor this amendment and other actions relative to the FAA Issue that impacts Clayton County’s children and its residents. For more information or to voice your concern, please visit the Clayton Residents Against Fuel Tax Seizure (CRAFTS) website, <http://www.joincrafts.com>.

About Clayton County Public Schools

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited through AdvancED – Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. The district offers a focused world class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving almost 55,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S., and is the fifth largest school system in Georgia.

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