



There is strength in numbers.

January 22, 2020

Good Politics! Hateful Politics. Shady Politics?



Protecting the family.

TN will be the 10th state employer to offer family benefits to state executive branch employees/parents (it does not include private businesses). Thanks to Governor Lee and bill sponsor Senator Dickerson, the expanded family leave act will apply to all state executive branch employees. This pro-family legislation will be consistent with the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act.

Disappointing.

Three counties (Loudon, Stewart, and Tipton) have passed hateful resolutions that voice their disapproval of Governor Lee's decision to keep Tennessee's doors open to legal refugees.

Unused: \$732 million for needy families???

Hundreds of millions of \$\$\$ for TN's needy families are sitting UNUSED. Unspent funds from the TANF block grants have grown to \$732 million in recent years (more than any state in the nation). **FYI: TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) is a workforce development and employment program that emphasizes work, training, and personal responsibility—gaining self-sufficiency through employment.**

The speakers of the TN General Assembly appointed a bipartisan group of legislators to seek accountability and transparency.

NO accountability yet, but solutions include:

- > Change from a once-a-year granting process to twice-a-year
- > Start grant application process on Feb. 1, 2020.
- > Ensure all grants follow guidelines
- > Applicants have three weeks to apply
- > Programs begin in July
- > Funds received when program benchmarks are met

FYI: Feb.5 is the DEADLINE.

TN Legislators have until closing on Feb 5th to file new bills for this session. Bills introduced in 2019 that didn't pass or fail can continue being heard. However, NO legislation can be carried over to the 2021 session.