

**Sheri Malstrom**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**DISTRICT 27**



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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February 22, 2017

Dear Senate Finance & Revenue Committee,

I am writing you in regard to SB123 that authorizes the creation of children's special districts. This would enable local communities to create a special district, much like a water district, school district or fire district in their community that would focus on providing services to children who are school aged or younger for after school activities. These could be civic programs, music programs, workforce development programs, health programs, whatever a particular community sees that it needs.

We have seen funding for these programs in many school districts cut over the years. For some communities, SB123 may be the solution for their children. It keeps control of funding with the local community. No one in some far away community is going to tell your children's district that they can't fund an after-school recreational program or music program.

We should give local communities all the tools possible to help their children. If a community decides a special district for children isn't for them, they don't have to make one. I think many could end up trying a children's special district to address funding problems for after school programs.

As a public health nurse for over thirty years and a former member of the Washington County Commission for Children & Families, I have seen first-hand the consequences to families when young children are not given proper supervision and activities after school to help them thrive. Children without supervision are more likely to engage in unsafe or even criminal behavior later in life. Funding after school activities now will save us public dollars later in their lives. Please support SB 123.

Sheri Malstrom

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