

From: Cheryl Zwillinger
To: [JWMED Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 5516
Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:04:55 AM

Dear Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

I am writing to ask you to consider not reducing the allocation of grant funds for the Early Learning and Youth Development Programs, SB 5516. As an agency receiving grant funds from the Youth Development Council, I can attest to the positive impacts these funds have made on at-risk youth who have left school and would otherwise not graduate.

Looking Glass Riverfront School received funding for services to assist youth pass the required state essential skills assessments, to improve graduation rates and to provide services to help students transition to higher education. Our outcomes have been outstanding. Of those seniors required to pass the state reading standard in 2015 – 2016, 68% met the standard. Of those seniors required to pass the state math assessment in 2015 – 2016 68% met the standard. All students graduating with a high school diploma passed all essential skills tests.

Additionally, during the 2015 – 2016 school year, 50 Riverfront students received academic and career counseling, 54 youth received tutoring to improve their reading, writing and test preparation skills, 16 youth completed a FAFSA application and 50% of all potential graduates met all requirements to graduate.

Funding from the YDC has made a significant difference in our student's success. I urge you and your colleagues in the House to consider full funding for the Youth Development Council. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Cheryl E. Zwillinger
Program Director