

Nov. 30, 2021

Members of the Committee,

I urge you to resist any actions to use funding from the Student Success Act to supplant or plug any holes created by moving General Funds that had previously used for Education to other programs.

The reason so many of us worked so hard for the Student Success Act was that our schools have been chronically underfunded for the past two decades. Moving any of the funding that was previously dedicated to schools with the intent of replacing it with SSA dollars is only perpetuating the underfunding that resulted in the need for the Act.

Further, this is exactly what many people who opposed the Act said would happen: that the money from the Student Success Act would simply be redirected to other programs. While technically moving General Funds money does not make that true, in reality that is what happens. People were told this would be additional, not replacement, funding for education.

Many of us also spent a good deal of time and effort attending and organizing community meetings in our local school districts to describe to district officials what is needed in our schools when this funding reaches our local areas. At a time when school officials are increasingly under stress and public attack, this is a betrayal of those who defended and advocated for passage of the bill and gravely harms community trust in those officials.

Above all, this committee owes it to everyone who supported this bill an honest report of what has happened with this funding and why. Any effort to white wash what essentially feels like a bait and switch will only further erode the community's confidence our state government.

What would help guard that confidence most closely is using the Student Investment Account as supplementary funding to education, as we were all promised.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Jeskey
Canby