

Submitter: Emily McIntire  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1002

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, Members of the Committee,

I completely understand the heart of this bill BUT please- find another way to fund this. We can't keep creating programs and carve outs that take away from our SSF. Our schools are struggling. Our staff is leaving. Our small schools don't know how to stay open. If we carve out funds from this account- we make it even harder for our children to get an education.

I'd like to break this down for you... The state uses a formula to give money to the school districts. There is also an additional amount given to small schools as well as for SPED students. But for the most part- we say that we give about \$9,500 for each student. We have seen a massive exodus from school districts in the last few years due to COVID, as these numbers continue to decrease, so does the amount that the schools are given and less they can use. Then you need to look at the levels of SPED students in the district. The state currently funds at 11%. Most districts run at 14-16% for SPED. This is set so that schools aren't abusing the system to get more money- I can understand that- but this is difficult. Also, schools are told that once they spend a certain amount on SPED, to decrease that spending (if the need goes down) ODE requires them to submit paperwork to prove they are decreasing due to need and not to not providing services. Again- complicated.

So- the point- lets say you've got a student that needs a 1:1 aide. So the district now has a singular person assigned to this student- the cost? Probably \$80k (that is including benefits and PERS), then you've got the therapies, occupational, speech, and physical- I have no clue the cost on that- but I know my PT sessions aren't cheap. Then you've got 1:1 tutoring...Transportation... The point- this student ends up at a cost to the district at well over \$100k. I am not saying this is wrong- we need to provide these services for these kids- what I am saying is- we are requiring our districts to offer and provide a FREE and public education and then we don't give them enough money to do it.

Please, please- lets give our schools as much as we possibly can and then lets find a way to use other funds to make this bill happen.

Again, thank you for your time, your heart for education, and your service to this state.

Blessings, Emily McIntire